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Arab-Israeli Talks

Israel-Jordan Draft Agreement of Principles Detailed

TA2111105893 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 21 Nov 93 pp 1, 15

[Report by Nehama Dowek]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] The draft agreement of principles achieved in the meeting between Foreign Minister Peres and King Husayn was signed by the king himself, rather than by Crown Prince Hasan. Foreign Minister Peres signed for Israel.

Political sources in Jerusalem, who divulged this detail yesterday, also said that Foreign Ministry Director General Uri Savir also participated in the 3 November meeting in the king's palace, which lasted more than six hours.

Savir and Avi Gil, director of the foreign minister's bureau, left for Amman prior to the secret meeting for preparing the ground and the draft agreement. Peres and Husayn agreed that the king would submit the draft agreement for President al-Asad's perusal during his upcoming visit to Damascus. It was decided that the agreement will be publicized only after this visit and after some progress is made in the negotiations with Syria.

The several page long document includes the principles which will serve as the basis for a comprehensive peace agreement. The document directs the teams which will be established on what issues to negotiate.

The document of principles includes two clauses, one economic and another political. One of the main issues ironed out in the agreement and on which Jordan was unwilling to compromise was that of territories located in the central 'Arava region, which according to the demarcation of the international border belong to Jordan. Israeli farmers, however, have cultivated these lands for many years.

Peres and Husayn agreed that Israel would recognize Jordanian sovereignty over this central 'Arava territory, whereas Jordan will allow Israel to continue cultivating the land.

Also included in the political clause is Jordan's declaration that it accepts the continuation of the negotiations process with the Palestinians and agrees that the final status of relations between it and the Palestinians—autonomy or confederation—will only be determined at the end of the five years of the interim arrangement, toward the implementation of the permanent arrangement in the territories.

The second clause deals with bilateral economic cooperation. The sides agreed about several gigantic projects to be developed by multinational companies. It was also decided that tenders will be issued shortly for preparing feasibility plans for these projects.

Foreign Minister Peres raised, among other things, the proposal for a canal-port to be established south of the Dead Sea for the use of the two countries. They also discussed joint projects in the areas of tourism, roads, infrastructure, and an airport. [passage omitted]

Tourism Ministers Hold 'Secret' Talks

TA2211061893 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 22 Nov 93

[Text] Tourism Minister 'Uzi Bar'am says he has recently met with Arab diplomats, including his Jordanian counterpart, with whom he held private talks in London. Minister Bar'am says he kept his meeting with the Jordanian tourism minister secret, until it was disclosed in Jordan yesterday. 'Uzi Bar'am spoke last night with reporter David Ze'ev:

[Begin recording] [Bar'am] I have met with several very prominent Arab diplomats and Arab leaders. I had a meeting with the minister of tourism of Jordan in London, very friendly, but this is all the information that I can supply right now.

[Ze'ev] At whose initiative was the meeting?

[Bar'am] The initiative was of a third party.

[Ze'ev] The third party knew that Jordan or Israel-...[pauses] No, I understand you didn't actually discuss joint tourism projects, but did you discuss the possibility of a peace agreement soon between Israel and Jordan?

[Bar'am] I didn't elaborate on this subject, but according to his point of view, I think that everything depends on other developments.

[Ze'ev] Meaning Syria?

[Bar'am] Even Syria. Not only Syria, but Syria. Syria is a very, very dominant issue for Jordan.

[Ze'ev] Now, I understand as well that a Jordanian business delegation met here in Jerusalem with the director general of your ministry, Eli Gonen.

[Bar'am] This was even more important from the point of view of the Tourism Ministry, because they have spoken with him about how to push mutual projects in the north and south of the Dead Sea, about the gate between Elat and al-'Aqabah, about building an international project of tourism. They did it, and they did it purposely, I think by the permission of the Jordanian Government, and they knew in advance about the meeting between me and the minister of tourism of Jordan.

[Ze'ev] Can these projects proceed even before a peace accord is signed between Israel and Jordan?

[Bar'am] I am not so sure about the exact time, but it's very possible. [end recording]

'Arafat, Rabin To Sign Agreement on Withdrawal 12 Dec

NC2011104793 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1002 GMT 20 Nov 93

[Text] Tunis, 20 Nov (MENA)—Informed Palestinian sources in Tunis noted today that Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin on 12 December will sign an agreement on beginning the Israeli withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho and implementing the 13 September agreement between the PLO and Israel.

These sources said that the current negotiations in Cairo between the Palestinian and Israeli parties have made important and tangible progress in resolving many issues, especially the border demarcation that has currently entered its final stages, as well as issues regarding grouping [tajmi'] Israeli settlements, regional water supplies, and crossing points. The two sides have agreed that there will be five crossing points from the Gaza Strip and three crossing points from Jericho.

Agreement Reached on International Observers in Gaza

TA1911124693 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 19 Nov 93 p 3

[Report by Alex Fishman, Yo'av Kaspi, and Cairo correspondent Eldad Beck]

[Excerpt] At the end of the second round of talks in Cairo yesterday, knowledgeable Israeli sources assessed that two additional secret sessions may be held in order to finalize an agreement.

A senior source in the Israeli delegation said no dramatic breakthrough had been attained. He nevertheless noted that following yet another softening in Israel's position, particularly on security issues, some progress was made on certain issues which will enable the continuation of the deliberations next week .

The Palestinians compromised on the Israeli security concept with regard to securing the settlements in the Gaza Strip in three big blocs—the Qatif Bloc, the Nisanit area in the north, and the Kfar Darom area in the south. The Palestinians had originally demanded that the Army guard every settlement separately. In the first round of talks in Cairo, they agreed that the settlements also be guarded from the outside, and in the current round of talks, they agreed about guarding blocs of settlements.

The sides agreed to station a force of international observers in the Gaza Strip. If settlers disrupt the order outside their settlements, they will be arrested by the Palestinian police force. Israel did not object to the PLO requests to outfit the Palestinian police force with weapons and communication equipment and to allow it to conduct car patrols. Only minimal disagreements remain between Israel and the PLO with regard to the size, composition, and gear of the Palestinian police force.

Israel compromised on its demand for demilitarized security zones where Palestinians would not be allowed to build or farm land. Israel had initially demanded a 1-km-wide demilitarized zone along the entire border with the Gaza Strip and 600-meter-wide demilitarized zones on both sides of the roads used by the security forces and the settlers. Israel now agrees to these demilitarized zones being significantly smaller than it had initially demanded.

The Palestinians agreed to retain the Israel Navy observation posts along the Gaza Strip beach, which reflects their agreement to the Navy's continued control over boats entering and exiting the Gaza Strip area.

The sides also agreed that the blocs of settlements in the north and south of the Gaza Strip will be linked to the areas within the boundaries of the Green Line by two short roads.

The sides failed to reach agreement on several issues: The nature of the Israeli troops that will move along the roads in the Gaza Strip (military or police troops), the number of roads on which Israeli troops and settlers will be allowed to move freely, control over the border crossings, and the size of the autonomous area in Jericho. [passage omitted]

Environment Working Group Issues Final Statement

NC2111145993 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1410 GMT 21 Nov 93

[Excerpts] Cairo, 21 Nov (MENA)—The Environment Working Group stemming from the multilateral peace talks in the Middle East has thanked Egypt for hosting its meetings and for the excellent arrangements it provided to make the meetings, attended by delegates from 45 countries, successful.

In a statement at the conclusion of its meetings on Tuesday [16 November], the group welcomed the Declaration of Principles signed between Israel and the PLO and the agreement on a joint agenda for talks between Israel and Jordan. The group hoped Syria and Lebanon will join its meetings in the near future.

On environmental affairs, the group stressed the need to increase environmental awareness in the region and expressed support for Japan's proposal to set up an environmental educational center in the region. The group welcomed Japan's proposal to hold a meeting of the Cairo consultative group in early 1994 to discuss its proposals on the criteria for environmental policies. [passage omitted]

The group called for its next meeting to be held next April. The date will be discussed by the Steering Committee of the Madrid Peace Conference on the Middle East, which is responsible for coordinating the meetings of the groups under the multilateral talks.

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Said Losing 'Major Stronghold' in Lebanon

NC2111080393 Paris AFP in English 2250 GMT 20 Nov 93

[By Muntasser Abdallah]

[Text] 'Ayn al-Hulwah, Lebanon, Nov 21 (AFP)—PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat has lost control of what was long one of his major strongholds in Lebanon—the 'Ayn al-Hulwah refugee camp, home to 80,000 Palestinians.

Portraits of 'Arafat, head of the PLO's main faction Fatah, disappeared from the narrow, dusty streets of the largest Palestinian refugee camp in Lebanon after he signed the agreement with Israel on limited Palestinian self-rule in the occupied territories on September 13.

The walls of 'Ayn al-Hulwah were covered instead with slogans exhorting the Palestinians to "continue the armed struggle," and to oppose "the shameful agreement."

One of 'Arafat's closest aides in Lebanon, Mu'in Shbaytah, was shot dead last Monday [15 November] in the southern Lebanese town of Sidon, where the Palestine Liberation Organization has its Lebanon military headquarters. 'Ayn al-Hulwah lies on the town's outskirts.

Nine days before Shbaytah's killing, Zayd Wahbah, 'Arafat's former representative in Lebanon, was shot and wounded in Sidon. Both belonged to 'Arafat's Fatah group.

The attacks provided further evidence of 'Arafat's weakening grip on 'Ayn al-Hulwah.

Slogans hostile to 'Arafat started appearing after a revolt within Fatah ranks, spearheaded by Munir Maqdah.

The PLO leadership in Tunis sacked Maqdah from the command of the Fatah militia in Lebanon on October 14, because he opposed the deal with Israel. It named Lieutenant-Colonel Badih Kuraym to succeed him.

In retaliation, Maqdah called on 'Arafat to resign from the PLO leadership and announced the creation of the "Black September 13 Brigades"—named after the date the PLO-Israeli accord was signed.

Maqdah said the organization consisted of Fatah military officers who "refused to abandon the armed struggle."

"Black September 13" later said it carried out the murder of a Jewish settler in the occupied territories, denounced by 'Arafat.

It also claimed responsibility for recent Katyusha rocket attacks on northern Israel, launched from Lebanon.

Of 20 Fatah offices in the 'Ayn al-Hulwah camp, 17 are held by Maqdah and only three by 'Arafat's followers.

In an interview with AFP, Kurayn acknowledged there was "a deep wound within Fatah."

Meanwhile Maqdah said there was an attempt within Fatah to "create an opposition to the current leadership, which has deviated from its initial goal—armed struggle." He said he had won over to his side more than 20 of the 32 Fatah political and military officers in 'Ayn al-Hulwah.

Resentment against 'Arafat in the camp stems from a feeling of abandonment among residents, Palestinians say, because the deal with Israel concerns only the territories occupied by Israel in 1967.

Ninety percent of the inhabitants of 'Ayn al-Hulwah and the majority of the Palestinian refugees in Lebanon are descendants of people who fled to Lebanon in 1948 from areas which became part of the official state of Israel.

The PLO-Israeli deal makes no reference to the right of the 1948 refugees to return. At the same time Lebanon refuses to allow them to settle.

The sense of neglect is further aggravated by the fact that six months ago 'Arafat stopped sending money to the camp because of the PLO's financial crisis, the Palestinian officials said.

However, pro-Syrian Palestinian organizations failed to take advantage of the situation to increase their influence.

They managed to assemble no more than a few hundred people in the camp to demonstrate against the autonomy deal.

According to one long-standing resident of 'Ayn al-Hulwah, 68-year-old Ahmad Yasin, all the groups outside Fatah lost credibility by being "vassals to Arab regimes."

He said that despite the wounds 'Arafat was "still the symbol of Palestinian sovereignty."

Fatah 'Cell Groups' Claim Haifa Refinery 'Destroyed'

NC2211132593 Shanayh Voice of the Mountain in Arabic 1230 GMT 22 Nov 93

[Text] Fatah cell groups operating in Palestine have carried out an operation in which the Haifa oil refinery was destroyed. Fatah distributed a statement in Beirut that said: In line with their instructions, several groups of the movement's cells in Palestine have carried an operation, code-named Nar al-Fath [Fatah Fire]. They succeeded in penetrating the intensive and tight security around the Haifa refinery and destroyed it. The Haifa refinery, a vital artery supplying fuel to the Zionist military machine, has an entire army company stationed within its grounds.

The movement promised to give full details and additional evidence about the operation, including a full statement about the losses suffered by the enemy. It

emphasized that Palestine belongs to the people and the nation and that no one has the right to concede an atom of its soil.

The movement warned the Zionist entity's leaders not to retaliate against Palestinian and Arab civilians inside and outside Palestine.

Fatah Condemns IDF Shooting of Boy, Threatens Violence

JN1911193193 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1800 GMT 19 Nov 93

[Text] Fatah, the mainstream PLO faction, has strongly condemned the Israeli occupation troops' shooting of a Palestinian boy who was later martyred from his wounds in the occupied West Bank. Fatah threatened to resort to violence unless the Israeli side is committed to halting violence against Palestinian citizens.

Named Fatah Member Killed in Gaza; Wounded Arab Dies

TA1911124893 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 19 Nov 93 p 2

[Report by David Regev and Arye Kiesel]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] Mu'in Muhammad 'Abd-al-Bari, one of the senior members of the secret Fatah apparatus in the Gaza Strip, was killed two days ago. He was accidentally shot while on his way to capture people suspected of collaboration with Israel. [passage omitted]

Jamil al-Sufi, a 25-year-old resident of Rafah who was seriously wounded two weeks ago, died last night of his wounds in the Soroka Hospital in Beersheba. He was shot by unknown assailants while driving on the Gaza bypass road.

It is suspected that al-Sufi was shot by settlers after the murder of Kfar Darom resident Efrayim Ayubi. Two weeks ago, shortly after Ayubi was shot to death, settlers rioted on the Gaza bypass road. Arab sources reported at the time that, among other things, settlers fired at a local car driving near the al-Mughazi refugee camp.

Three Suspected 'Collaborators' Killed in Gaza Strip

NC2111000193 Paris AFP in English 0820 GMT 21 Nov 93

[Text] Gaza City, Occupied Gaza Strip, Nov 21 (AFP)—Three suspected collaborators were found dead Sunday [21 November] at different places on the occupied Gaza Strip after being kidnapped overnight, Palestinian sources said.

The armed wing of the Islamic Resistance Movement Hamas claimed responsibility for killing a 43-year man in Gaza City in a letter left by the corpse.

A 20-year-old woman was found shot dead in Khan Yunis, and a third, a man in Rafah refugee camp. Both were suspected of collaborating with the Israeli authorities, the sources said.

Palestinians have murdered more than 900 suspected collaborators since the uprising or intifadah began in December 1987, according to the army.

Senior PLO Commanders Permitted To Visit Gaza Strip

TA2211083993 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0800 GMT 22 Nov 93

[Text] Three senior PLO commanders have been given permission to come to the Gaza Strip to examine the possibilities regarding the deployment of the Palestinian police force. The three are General 'Abd-al-Raziq al-Majaydah, Gen. 'Abdallah al-Farah, and Colonel Ziyad 'Arif. A Palestinian source told our correspondent Moti Amir that the three will gauge the preparedness of the Palestinians and examine the possible use of facilities left behind by the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] in Gaza and Jericho.

First Police Group To Head for Gaza 23 Nov

NC2211122693 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1145 GMT 22 Nov 93

[Text] Cairo, 22 Nov (MENA)—Major General Salah-al-Din 'Amir, the Egyptian governor general of Gaza, said that the first group from the Palestinian police force that completed its training and graduated in Egypt today will head for Gaza tomorrow, Tuesday, and await orders to begin carrying out its security tasks.

Speaking after today's graduation ceremony, the governor general said that this group of Palestinian police officers will be in charge of protecting and guarding key figures and vital installations in Gaza.

He added that 130 Palestinian officers are currently receiving training in various security tasks at the Egyptian police academy in preparation for taking over security tasks in Gaza after its liberation.

PLA Soldiers To Prepare for Deployment in Gaza, Jericho

NC2011073393 Paris AFP in English 0411 GMT 20 Nov 93

[Text] Tunis, Nov 20 (AFP)—Some 9,000 soldiers of the Palestine Liberation Army (PLA) are to assemble in Jordan and Egypt ready for deployment in the occupied Gaza Strip and the West Bank town of Jericho, a Palestinian source here said Friday [19 November].

PLA soldiers in Iraq under the command of Haj Isma'il will join up with the PLA's "Badr" units in Jordan, for assembly in the Jordan valley before their entry into the Jericho region, the source said.

PLA troops in Algeria, Libya, Sudan and Yemen will assemble in Egypt prior to deployment in the Gaza Strip town of Rafah, the source said.

Under the historic accord the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) signed with Israel on September 13, a Palestinian security force will take charge in the Gaza Strip and Jericho after the Israeli troops start withdrawing on December 13.

The force will be under the command of Colonel Nasir Yusuf, a member of the Central Committee of Fatah, the mainstream faction in the PLO.

Fatah's Revolutionary Council meeting here last weekend set up a military committee to carry out a census of PLA soldiers to prepare for their transfer.

'Arafat Returns to Tunis From Visit to Spain

LD1911175993 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 19 Nov 93

[Excerpts] Brother Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], the president of the state of Palestine, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, this morning arrived in Tunis at the end of a successful working visit to Spain, during which he held official working sessions with the king of Spain, the prime minister, the foreign minister, and senior Spanish officials, as well as a number of Spanish businessmen. [passage omitted] The brother president Abu-'Ammar welcomed Spain's readiness to render assistance to the Palestinian people, and the readiness of businessmen to invest in Palestine. [passage omitted]

'Arafat: Israel Seeking To Delay Withdrawal

JN2111203093 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1800 GMT 21 Nov 93

[Text] Yesteday morning, Brother Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] received Mr. Glido Cortoa, president of the council of the ambassadors of the European Union in Tunis [name and title as heard]. The two talked about Middle East developments, with special emphasis on the peace process and the obstacles created by the Israeli authorities to push back the 13 December deadline for an Israeli withdrawal from occupied land, as envisaged by the Palestinian-Israeli accord.

Brother Abu-'Ammar noted the risks involved in settler actions against Palestinians in the occupied territories, and stressed the need for an end to these practices.

'Abbas Expresses Optimism About Peace Process

JN1911164693 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1435 GMT 19 Nov 93

[Text] Doha, 19 Nov (WAKH)—PLO Executive Committee member Mahmud 'Abbas, also known as Abu-Mazin, has expressed optimism about the future despite the obstacles that are being thrown on the path of peace. He indicated that in the end there must be a solution.

In a statement to the QATARI NEWS AGENCY before departing Doha today, Abu-Mazin said the decision [words indistinct] is basically [word indistinct] Arab affair. He indicated that this matter must be studied by Arabs so they can decide whatever they deem appropriate. He said the Declaration of Principles agreement needs negotiations. He said each party wants the Declaration of Principles implemented in accordance with its own views. He indicated that in the final analysis, there must be solutions that satisfy Palestinians and do not alarm Israelis, who have various feelings because the region is entering a new phase.

Official Notes Need To Deal, Hold Dialogue With Israel

NC2011212993 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2035 GMT 20 Nov 93

[Text] Cairo, 20 Nov (MENA)—Ahmad al-Tibi, adviser to Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat and to the Palestinian delegations negotiating with Israel, has stated that recent political events demonstrate a need to deal with Israel and find new methods of holding a dialogue with it to obtain positive results. He pointed out that this is what happened in the case of the Declaration of Principles and the Israel-PLO mutual recognition.

In an interview with the newspaper AL-AHRAM to be published on 21 November, al-Tibi said the Arabs in Israel can be a bridge for peace although they suffer discrimination in pursuing their rights. He declared that ending the tension between the Arabs and Israel and achieving peace will benefit the Arab masses.

Al-Tibi remarked that the issue of the Palestinian detainees is the chief test for the Israeli-Palestinian agreement, noting that it is not reasonable for those who struggled for the sake of the agreement to remain in detention after the agreement is concluded.

He said that Hamas' [Islamic Resistance Movement] opposition to the agreement is a feature of Palestinian democracy. He said: We hope Hamas will determine where it stands within the Palestinian rank so that it might be possible to build a Palestinian state.

Hawatimah Denounces Concessions Made at Cairo Talks

TA1911171193 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 19 Nov 93 pp 1, 7

[By Rashid Hilal]

[Text] Ramallah, Damascus—Nayif Hawatimah, general secretary of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, has stressed that there is a complete contradiction between the Gaza-Jericho plan and the declaration of independence and there is no connection between them. Hawatimah made this statement in an exclusive telephone interview with AL-QUDS on the occasion of the 5th anniversary of the Palestinian state's declaration of independence.

Hawatimah said: The declaration of independence was based on the historic rights of the Palestinian people in their homeland and on international legitimacy's resolutions which affirmed this right, foremost of all Resolutions 181 and 194 pertaining to repatriation, and Resolutions 242 and 338 which call for Israeli withdrawal from all the occupied Arab territories, including the West Bank and Gaza Strip. The declaration of independence was also based on the Palestinian people's right to self-determination on their land, Resolutions 605 and 607, and other resolutions calling for the removal of settlements and nonrecognition of the legality of East Jerusalem's annexation to the state of Israel.

Hawatimah added: On the other hand, the Gaza-Jericho plan was based on the Alon plan of the former Israeli foreign minister, which ignored all international legitimacy's resolutions. The aim of this plan is to get rid of the Gaza Strip because it has caused so much trouble and difficulty during the occupation. The plan grants the Palestinians self-administration in their daily lives in return for recognizing Israel's right to exist, ending the state of war between the Arabs and Israel, ending the Arab boycott of Israel, and opening the gates of the Arab region to Israel.

Hawatimah said: This plan has eliminated Jerusalem from the equation, bestowed legitimacy on the settlements, ignored the refugees' right of return, and closed the horizons to an independent state.

Hawatimah noted that voices of complaint have begun to be heard from inside the Gaza-Jericho camp because they fear the plan might fail. He considered this a new indication that the Gaza-Jericho plan has no connection whatsoever with the Palestinian people's aspirations and national rights.

Hawatimah criticized the secret talks in Cairo, in which the Palestinian side accepted what it had rejected at the overt talks in Taba. He said: Since the beginning we expected the Taba talks, which encountered some problems, to turn into secret talks bearing in mind that the Washington accord was the product of secret diplomacy conducted behind the backs of the Palestinian people and their national forces.

Hawatimah added that it was difficult for the Palestinian delegation to make concessions under the media's limelight and the people's surveillance, therefore, it resorted to the secret talks in Cairo.

Hawatimah said that what is being discussed now is a plan for redeploying the Israeli Army in the Gaza Strip, preserving the settlements, reinforcing the right of settlers and the occupation army to freedom of movement in the Strip, and obligating the Palestinian police to coordinate on security between the two parties.

Majority of Gazans Oppose Accord, Support Islamic State

TA1911152493 Jerusalem AL-NAHAR in Arabic 19 Nov 93 p 2

[Text] Gaza—The al-Salam Press and Media Research Office conducted a public opinion poll comprising 13 questions [as published] on 949 questionnaires distributed to respondents throughout the Gaza Strip. The respondents were from different age groups, educational levels, and classes of society. The results were as follows:

Are you in favor of the Gaza-Jericho limited self-rule plan?
—Yes, 31 percent; no, 61 percent; no opinion, 8 percent.

Do you believe that the agreement will lead to the establishment of a Palestinian state, with Jerusalem as its capital, and the restoration of Palestinian rights?
— Yes, 27.35 percent; no, 63.75 percent; no opinion, 8.90 percent.

What kind of state do you favor?
—A Palestinian state in the West Bank and Gaza Strip alongside the state of Israel: 16.20 percent.
—One democratic state encompassing Jews and Arabs: 10.30 percent.
—An Islamic state: 63.50 percent. [figures as published]

Are you in favor of modifying the Palestinian Covenant and recognizing Israel?
— Yes, 19.7 percent; no, 56 percent; no opinion, 24.3 percent.

Do you believe that the Gaza-Jericho plan will improve the economic situation in the West Bank and Gaza Strip?
— Yes, 44 percent; no, 42.3 percent; no opinion, 13.7 percent.

If the settlements remain, under which authority should they be?
— The self-rule authority, 63.2 percent; Israeli authority, 25.4 percent; no opinion, 11.4 percent.

Do you believe that the opposition's proposals are realistic and have a chance of success?
— Yes, 55 percent; no, 28 percent; no opinion, 17 percent.

Are you in favor of Palestinian-Israeli intelligence cooperation?
— Yes, 6.7 percent; no, 82.7 percent; no opinion, 10.6 percent.

Would you accept the Palestinian self-rule authority dissolving the boards of management in national institutions, abolishing the system of elections, and pursuing a method of appointing members to the boards of management?
— Yes, 5.4 percent; no, 84 percent; no opinion, 10.6 percent.

Algeria

Rival Islamic Groups Clash 19 Nov; 27 Killed

LD2211111993 Paris France-Inter Radio Network in French 1000 GMT 22 Nov 93

[Text] More acts of violence and more deaths have been reported in Algeria: Twenty-seven people were killed on Friday in a clash between rival armed Islamic groups. The Armed Islamic Group [GIA] had earlier threatened to kill any Islamist who was in favor of a dialogue with the government. The group has now decided to carry out its threats.

Presiding Judge Assassinated in Chelef Governorate

LD2111202093 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 21 Nov 93

[Text] It has been learned from the Justice Ministry that Chaouch Radouane, chairman of the Court of Justice of Tenes, governorate of Chelef, was assassinated yesterday by a terrorist group consisting of three individuals.

On the other hand, the Security Services said that they had been able to liquidate 13 terrorists between Wednesday and Saturday in central and eastern Algeria. A quantity of weapons has been recovered.

Doctor Attacked, Stabbed

NC2111112893 Paris AFP in English 1057 GMT 21 Nov 93

[Text] Algiers, Nov 21 (AFP)—A 53-year-old doctor, who was stabbed and seriously injured by two men posing as patients, is the latest victim of a wave of fundamentalist attacks in Algeria, the local press reported Sunday [21 November].

Said Messai, the head of Algiers' association of private physicians, was attacked last Thursday as he was about to examine one of the two assailants who lunged at him with a knife. He was wounded in the chest, the liver and an arm.

Messai's nurse ran out into the street to seek help and the two men fled. Police gave chase and injured one of them.

Three doctors have been killed since March in attacks by Muslim fundamentalists who have also targeted journalists and intellectuals.

Messai's condition was said to be serious but not life-threatening.

Moroccan Arrested for Kidnapping French Citizens

LD2111201193 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 21 Nov 93

[Text] Following the investigation under way concerning the kidnapping of three French citizens on 24 October last, one of those who perpetrated this operation has been arrested. He is named Ait Belkouk Mohamed, alias Islam, born on 29 April 1968, in Kouba [district of Algiers]. He is a Moroccan citizen.

Ait Belkouk had taken part in preparing and carrying out the operation. He was present at the place where the citizens were kidnapped. His recent admissions have permitted the identification of most of those implicated in this operation, and he has also admitted that the armed group led by Sid Ahmed Mourad, alias Djaafar the Afghan, was behind this operation.

Ait Belkouk has also admitted his involvement in several other crimes planned and carried out by the Djaafar the Afghan group.

Islamic Ennahda Movement's Jaballah Makes Statement

LD1911212593 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 19 Nov 93

[Text] As part of a series of statements by leaders of political parties on the current situation in the country, we present a statement by Abdallah Jaballah, the leader of the Islamic Ennahda Movement.

[Begin Jaballah recording] In the name of God the merciful, the compassionate. Algeria today is going through a unique experiment in its contemporary history. It is an experiment of dialogue for the return of security, stability and legitimacy to Algeria.

We believe that a dialogue which ensures such a result is a dialogue which tackles two crucial points. The first concerns the general principles that apply to the set-up of the state. The second concerns the institutions which govern the interim stage.

We think that these two crucial points must have two platforms: First, the constants of the Algerian society, and second, the aim of the revolution as stipulated in the declaration of 1 November [1954].

If we have these two bases we will then be able to overcome many phenomena, including terrorism, which constitutes, as it is well known, a clear danger to the safety of the state, the safety and the freedom of political, social and other aspects of life. However, to deal with this phenomenon we need a method which can safeguard the constants of society, strengthen the prestige of the state, and revive hope in the hearts of all the citizens, particularly the hearts of the political partners in the possibility of the return of security, stability and legitimacy.

With regard to the statement by the army, it gives rise to great hope. The army wants to reaffirm its wish that the political parties should bear their full responsibility for the form of the institutions ruling the country after the expiry of the mandate of the present institutions.

We ask God to grant you success. [end recording]

Dialogue Commission To Continue Program Despite FFS Boycott

LD1911233393 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2200 GMT 19 Nov 93

[Text] After the decision of the Socialist Forces Front [FFS] to temporarily suspend its participation in the national dialogue, the National Dialogue Commission has announced that its program will continue as planned and that the multilateral meetings will continue with the the political parties and social forces. The FFS will be among those who are invited to take part in the dialogue.

The commission responded to the demands of the FFS by saying that it has recorded some of these demands and that it has submitted them to the authorities for the purpose of implementing them before the national conference, and the rest of these demands will be implemented after holding the conference.

With regard to lifting the state of emergency which is part of the FFS's demands, the commission thinks that the national conference itself can provide some clarifications in this connection as long as lifting or maintaining the emergency is linked to the progress made toward returning to civil peace. If the FFS is regarded as the first obstacle in the national dialogue, other parties have been active in the arena at the end of this week [as heard].

The Islamic Society Movement, Hamas, has called on all sides to abandon all the social projects they have raised and commit themselves to a truce so as to overcome the current circle of violence.

National Liberation Front [FLN] Secretary General Abdelhamid Mehri has expressed his conviction that the National People's Army possesses enough knowledge and experience to enable it to take the best decisions for the benefit of the country. Mehri said in a statement to a national weekly that the FLN does not call for the dismissal of the Higher State Council before the arrival of an elected authority.

Dialogue Commission Chairman Holds Talks With Ben Bella

LD2111141193 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 21 Nov 93

[Text] Continuing the series of meetings with political figures and parties in the context of the national dialogue, Youcef Khatib, chairman of the National Dialogue Commission, met today with Ahmed Ben Bella, leader of the Movement for Democracy in Algeria.

Party for Justice, Progress Welcomes Dialogue

LD2011140393 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 20 Nov 93

[Text] In a statement issued today, the Algerian Party for Justice and Progress gave its blessing to the process of national dialogue which guarantees a transition to a more rational and peaceful period. The party expressed its satisfaction at the democratic and frank atmosphere which prevailed at its meeting with the Dialogue Commission, and called for political reconciliation between all the rival political sides.

The Algerian Party for Justice and Progress also called for an agreement on the minimum conditions for a consensus on how to run the transitional period and guarantee the return of constitutional legitimacy.

Meanwhile, the committee in charge of organizing the meeting with the republican leaders has issued a correction saying that the meeting which was due to be held 24 November will be held instead Thursday 25 November at the Mohamed Boudiaf sports complex.

Egypt

PLO's 'Abbas Visits Cairo, Meets Foreign Ministry Official

NC2011153193 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1432 GMT 20 Nov 93

[Text] Cairo, 20 Nov (MENA)—Dr. Usamah al-Baz, Foreign Ministry first under secretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs, received today Mahmud 'Abbas, alias Abu-Mazin, member of the PLO Executive Committee, who is visiting Cairo.

An official source at the Palestinian Information Bureau in Cairo said that they discussed the latest developments of the Palestinian issue in light of the ongoing Palestinian-Israeli discussions, both the Gaza-Jericho Committee discussions in Cairo and the economic cooperation talks in Paris. They also discussed future steps to attain peace in the Middle East.

Palestinian Ambassador Sa'id Kamal and Fatah representative in Cairo Zuhdi al-Qidrah also attended the meeting.

Abu-Mazin arrived in Cairo yesterday for a visit of several days.

Received by Mubarak

NC2111104193 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1000 GMT 21 Nov 93

[Text] President Husni Mubarak received PLO Executive Committee member Mahmud 'Abbas, alias Abu-Mazin, today at the presidential headquarters in Heliopolis. The meeting was also attended by Sa'id Kamal, Palestine's ambassador in Cairo, and Dr. Usamah al-Baz, first under secretary in the Foreign Ministry and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs.

Comments on Palestinian-Israeli Talks

NC2111134393 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1225 GMT 21 Nov 93

[Text] Cairo, 21 Nov (MENA)—PLO Executive Committee member Mahmud 'Abbas, also known as Abu-Mazin, said that he briefed President Mubarak on the current status of the talks between the PLO and Israel, including the Gaza-Jericho Committee's talks and the economic talks held recently in Paris.

In a statement after his meeting with President Mubarak today, Abu-Mazin also said he explained the circumstances facing the PLO in implementing the Palestinian-Israeli agreement on 13 December and emphasized Egypt's role in supporting the PLO in achieving this goal.

Referring to the problems obstructing the talks, Abu-Mazin said they are detailed issues involving security, the borders of the settlements and camps, the transfer of authority, and the detainees and deportees. He added that all these issues are currently being discussed by the Palestinian and Israeli delegations.

Further 'Abbas Comments

NC2111200093 Paris AFP in English 1401 GMT 21 Nov 93

[Text] Cairo, Nov 21 (AFP)—Israeli-PLO negotiations on the Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Gaza Strip and West Bank town of Jericho will resume here Monday [22 November] as planned, a senior Palestine Liberation Organisation official said.

PLO Executive Committee Member Mahmud 'Abbas, alias Abu-Mazin, said Sunday that all the problems blocking progress at the talks would be examined "in detail."

He was speaking to reporters after a meeting with Egyptian President Husni Mubarak, which focussed on developments in the peace process.

The negotiations have been deadlocked over the scope of the Israeli withdrawal.

No date had been fixed for a meeting between PLO chief Yasir 'Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, Abu-Mazin said, but an accord on the withdrawal should be reached before December 13, and it would be "crowned by a meeting between 'Arafat and Rabin."

The Palestinian "ambassador" to Cairo, Sa'id Kamal, has said the two leaders will meet between December 10 and 12 "probably in Cairo" ahead of the signing of the accord.

Under the terms of the September 13 Palestinian limited autonomy accord the army has four months to withdraw from the Gaza Strip and Jericho starting from December 13.

State Security Court Hears 'Abd-al-Rahman Case

NC2011202793 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1825 GMT 20 Nov 93

[Text] Cairo, 20 Nov (MENA)—The Higher State Security Court-Emergency held a session today to try 48 suspects, led by Dr. 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman, who were involved in the 1989 riots that took place in al-Fayyum.

At the beginning of the session the court president, Counselor Ahmad 'Izzat al-'Ashmawi said the justice minister's decision to transfer the trial venue from al-Fayyum to the fair grounds in Madinat al-Nasr was based on a memorandum issued by the court and that it cannot be interpreted as interference in court procedures by an executive body. He added that the court will provide full legal guarantees for the suspects during the trial.

The court president appealed to the press to be objective and sincere in reporting the proceedings. He stressed that the court specifies to the press that it does not fight a certain ideology or person as a symbol or advocate of a certain ideology and that the court has to adhere to the list of indictments against the defendants.

Chief Prosecutor of the Higher State Security Usamah Qandil announced that 29 defendants were present and two other defendants were absent—al-Sayyid al-Badawi, who has died, and Hasan Shalqani, who was executed for involvement in the attempted assassination of Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif. He said the defendants' families have been given several permits to visit their relatives

The court read the charges against the defendants: that they participated in a gathering run by the first defendant, Dr. 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman, in order to commit crimes by transgression against public property and personalities, the possession of unlicensed firearms and ammunition for activity in contravention of security and public order, and the use of force and violence in dealing with security men.

The court heard the testimony of Brigadier Muhammad Sayf-al-Islam. He testified that he was head of al-Fayyum Police station in 1989 when some 1,000 people demonstrated outside al-Shuhada' Mosque after Friday prayers, carried Dr. 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman on their shoulders, chanted hostile slogans, then fired shots at and stoned security men.

He said he was hit by a bullet in the right thigh and taken to the hospital for treatment. Sayf-al-Islam added that Dr. 'Abd-al-Rahman had issued a religious decree sanctioning his death because he had arrested some of 'Abd-al-Rahman's aides.

The court also listened to the testimony of Lieutenant Colonel Samih Mustafa Fahmi, who said he was ordered to go to al-Shuhada' Mosque and that he saw the demonstrators resist the authorities and chant hostile slogans.

The court will resume its hearings tomorrow morning, Sunday.

Attempted Bombing Suspects Remanded for Interrogation

NC2011210593 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2040 GMT 20 Nov 93

[Text] Cairo, 20 Nov (MENA)—Al-Fayyum Prosecutor's Office remanded into custody for the purpose of further interrogation seven suspects who tried to detonate 11 incendiary devices in some of the city's areas after noon prayers yesterday. The suspects have already confessed that they planned to carry out terrorist acts against several police officers and public figures.

Gunmen Ambush Police Captain in Qina

NC2111144493 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1415 GMT 21 Nov 93

[Text] Qina, 21 Nov (MENA)—A police captain from the Qina State Security Intelligence Service and his driver were killed when unknown assailants opened fire on them in Qina today. Several passersby were wounded in the shooting. Traffic policeman 'Abd-al-Hamid Muhammad Sharrad was killed in the same incident.

An Interior Ministry source gave details about the incident, saying that at noon today unidentified assailants fired at a police car, killing Captain Muhammad Nada and his driver, 'Abd-al-'Aziz Mustafa. Four pedestrians were wounded by the gunfire. They are: Sha'ban Mubarak Mahmud, 'Arafat Muhammad Nasir, Hamidah Salhut, and Muna Muhammad.

Forensic experts were called to the scene of the shooting to examine evidence. Police cordoned off the area and began a manhunt for the culprits. The Prosecution Office began investigation into the case.

Gunmen Attack Police Station in Asyut

NC2211113193 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1113 GMT 22 Nov 93

[Text] Asyut, 22 Nov (MENA)—Three guards and two citizens were wounded in an assault perpetrated this morning by unidentified gunmen against the al-Tataliyah police station in al-Qusiyah, Asyut Governorate.

The guards are Salah Sayyid Hammad, 35, who sustained a bullet wound in his right leg; Musa Kamil Mursi, 41, who received a bullet in his left leg; and Marzuq Fahim Faraj, 30, who received a bullet in his left knee.

A 20-year-old citizen, al-Amir Muhammad al-Amir, sustained a bullet wound in his left foot, and an eight-year-old child, 'Id Rif'at Ishaq, sustained a bullet wound in the upper right thigh.

The wounded were taken to the al-Qusiyah hospital for treatment. Meanwhile, the security forces searched the area for the perpetrators.

Interior Ministry Denies Human Right Violations

NC2211084493 Cairo MENA in English 0730 GMT 22 Nov 93

[From the press review]

[Text] Cairo, 22 Nov (MENA)—Egypt respects human rights. There are no violations of such rights be it in prisons or elsewhere due to the complete freedom and democracy Egypt enjoys under the leadership of President Husni Mubarak, Interior Ministry spokesman and Public Relations Director Major General Ra'uf al-Mannawi told a news conference yesterday.

The government system highly respects human rights. Any person can express himself freely, he added. Torture is utterly rejected. It does not exist and is not part of the government's policy, he was quoted by Cairo press as saying.

But, if some excesses are committed by some members, and this [words indistinct], strict measures are taken against them and they are held accountable for these acts, he said. Some officers and soldiers were referred to investigation or were tried for violating the law, he said, pointing out that the Interior Ministry observes the human rights of citizens.

Interior Minister Notes Efforts To Control Terrorism

PM1911150193 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 18 Nov 93 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Egyptian Interior Minister Tells AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: Channels Opened With Afghanistan and Pakistan To Control Extremists' Movements"]

[Text] Cairo, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Egyptian Interior Minister Major General Hasan al-Alfi has said in a statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that new official channels have now been opened up with Afghanistan and Pakistan to allow a broader exchange of information about Egyptian terrorist elements that are being trained in mountainous border areas, so there is now tighter control over their movements and attempts to infiltrate Egypt.

The Egyptian interior minister added that a detailed study with figures has been prepared on everything relating to Egyptian terrorist leaders and elements in all the states in which they exist and from which they make their moves, not just in the border camps in Afghanistan and Pakistan.

The study cites a number of escapes involving extremist elements who fled from the known states in which they

received their training to three European capitals to stay there for different periods with a view to concealing their aims.

He said: Political and security efforts to close the channels whereby terrorists infiltrate Egypt coincide with three very effective tracks in the continued confrontation with the extremist groups.

He said that these effective tracks in the confrontation include: Continued extensive daily campaigns against potential dens throughout the republic, in addition to the rigorous implementation of prison bylaws. He said that these tracks also encourage people who have displayed very good willingness to cooperate with the police in confronting terrorism to continue, broaden, and deepen their contribution.

Joint Statement on Afghan President's Visit Issued

NC2011141993 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1050 GMT 20 Nov 93

[Text] Cairo, 20 Nov (MENA)—Afghan President Borhanoddin Rabbani has said that he appreciates Egypt's policies under President Husni Mubarak and has expressed the Afghan people's appreciation for Egypt's historic role and support for Afghanistan throughout its struggle against foreign invasion.

In a joint statement issued today on Rabbani's visit to Egypt, which ended Wednesday, the Afghan president stressed his condemnation of terrorism in all its forms. He also stressed that Afghan territory must not be used to threaten Egypt's security and stability.

The statement said that Presidents Mubarak and Rabbani exchanged views on issues of mutual concern and discussed ways to promote bilateral cooperation.

The following is the text of the statement:

At the invitation of President Muhammad Husni Mubarak of the Arab Republic of Egypt, President Borhanoddin Rabbani of the Islamic State of Afghanistan paid an official visit to Egypt between 15 and 17 November 1993 as an embodiment of the bonds of friendship and cordiality between the two countries.

During the visit, discussions between the two presidents and extended meetings between the delegations of the two countries were held. President Rabbani expressed his appreciation for the Egyptian policies under President Muhammad Husni Mubarak and the Afghan people's appreciation for Egypt's historic role. Egypt was one of the first countries that provided assistance to the Afghan struggle against foreign invasion until victory was achieved. Egypt has constantly supported the struggles of the Islamic peoples to liberate their lands.

President Rabbani also condemned terrorism in all its forms and stressed the inadmissibility of using Afghan territory to threaten Egypt's security and stability.

The two presidents exchanged views on matters of mutual concern and discussed regional and international issues and ways to strengthen bilateral ties and promote cooperation between the two fraternal countries in all areas.

The two sides agreed on the following:

1. To cooperate in areas that achieve regional and international security and peace and to coordinate their joint efforts in those areas.

2. That the Arab Republic of Egypt is ready to contribute to the reconstruction of Afghanistan. In this respect, several cooperation protocols have been signed.

The Government of the Arab Republic of Egypt has decided to resume the activity of its embassy in Kabul at the earliest opportunity.

Chinese Spokesman Denies Involvement in Espionage

NC2011114293 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1033 GMT 20 Nov 93

[Text] Cairo, 20 Nov (MENA)—A Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman has denied that Chinese nationals are involved in espionage in Egypt.

In a statement distributed by the Chinese Embassy in Cairo today, the spokesman said that China and Egypt are bound by a traditional friendship. He stressed that the Chinese Government always instructs its citizens in Egypt to fully abide by laws and to work to further the relations of cooperation and friendship between the Egyptian and Chinese peoples.

The Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman stressed that no Chinese national in Egypt intends to engage in espionage.

Some Arab newspapers recently reported that an espionage network, including some Chinese working on behalf of China, has been uncovered.

Libya

Envoy Says Lockerbie Suspects Will Not Be Tried Abroad

NC2211120193 Beirut AL-SAFIR in Arabic 17 Nov 93 p 12

[Excerpt] Cairo, AL-SAFIR—Ibrahim al-Bishari, Libya's permanent envoy to the Arab League, has declared that the two suspects in the Lockerbie case will not be tried outside Libya, especially because of the issuance of Security Council Resolution 883, which tightened the sanctions against Libya.

In statements he made to AL-SAFIR, al-Bishari said: Libya has offered the Western countries a policy of reconciliation and flexibility and has asked for compromises. But now that the resolution has been issued, Libya

will bear the sanctions for the sake of protecting its dignity. There are Libyan courts, and the suspects will be tried before them if they are indicted.

He added that his country is committed to paying its share to the UN budget and will not freeze its membership in that organization or withdraw from it, because there is no enmity between Libya and the United Nations. Libya, he said, is a civilized country that respects international relations.

On the settlement process and Libya's stand on that issue, al-Bishari said: PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat has followed this course. Let us wait for the results. The Palestinian people are responsible and mature, and they have 40 years of experience in dealing with the Zionists.

On the issue of lifting the Arab embargo on Israel, the Libyan envoy said: There is no way to do so right now. It is a shame for us to discuss ending the boycott now. Is it fair to have all the Arab countries agree on boycotting Libya and yet demand that the boycott of Israel be lifted? [passage omitted]

Paper Calls On Arabs To Defend 'Pan-Arab Line'

LD2111152693 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1215 GMT 21 Nov 93

[Excerpts] Tripoli, 21 Nov (JANA)—The newspaper AL-ZAHF AL-AKHDAR affirmed that Libya is the pan-Arab confrontation line. The enemies of the Arabs have been trying to breach it to reach the entire Arab nation to liquidate it and destroy its entity.

In an article titled "Libya, the Pan-Arab Confrontation Line; and Libyans, the Vanguards of the Nation," the paper calls on the Arabs in the face of this truth to become fighters in the defense of this pan-Arab line.

The paper says that those who see this confrontation as a purely "Libyan-Western crisis are deluding themselves." They are wrong and do not know the historical facts. These people are ignorant of the fact that the crusaders' hatred still lives on and it has not died in the hearts of all the enemies of the Arabs and the Muslims. [passage omitted]

The paper says that the Arabs must grasp this truth. They must not overlook it. They should be aware of its historical dimensions. It is Libya which alone is saying "no" to the humiliation of the Arab nation and it is Libya which alone is saying "no" to trampling on Arab dignity. It is Libya which alone is inciting the Arab nation to put up a challenge and to confront and see the need to defeat the enemies and seize victory with strength, resolution, and a determination to resist. [passage omitted]

Any Arab who abandons this part of the soil of the Arabs would be abandoning his honor, dignity, and his existence. Consequently, he would be betraying his entire nation and he would be betraying its history, its martyrs and its future.

The blockade of this part of the Arab homeland is in reality the start of a war against the Arab nation. If the aim is to destroy the centers of power, manifested in the centers of confrontation today, it is because the other centers are weak and feeble; they can be "occupied" and a presence in them can be achieved without any resistance.

The enemies of the Arabs know this fact in the same way as they know that Libya is the pan-Arab link, which any upright Arab can use as a trench to defend his nation, and that the Arabs of Libya were the first force to be deployed for battle on account of their pride and dignity and the material and moral potentials that they possess, which must be defended and one should die for. [passage omitted]

Al-Qadhdhafi Receives Egyptian Information Minister

LD1911201193 Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 19 Nov 93

[Text] The brother leader of the revolution [Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi] received brother Safwat al-Sharif, minister of information in the brotherly Arab Republic of Egypt, who arrived at noon today as envoy of President Husni Mubarak.

Minutes of Libya-DPRK Cooperation Committee Meeting Signed

LD2011205193 Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 20 Nov 93

[Text] The minutes of the 10th meetings of the joint Libyan Arab-North Korean Committee for Economic, Scientific, and Technical Cooperation, which started its proceedings on Thursday in Misratah, were signed in Tripoli this evening.

The minutes were signed by the brother secretary of the General People's Committee of Marine Resources and by Yi Song-Tae, chairman of the External Economic Affairs Commission in North Korea who is visiting the Great Jamahiriyah to represent the Korean side at the meetings.

The minutes include cooperation in the spheres of trade exchange, investment, construction, health, agriculture, the textile industry, marine resources, information, culture, education, and scientific research.

Sudan

Relations With U.S., Terrorism Charges Discussed

EA2111203193 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 0445 GMT 20 Nov 93

[From the "Under the Microscope" program]

[Excerpts] [Announcer] [passage omitted] Ladies and gentlemen, what we are about to discuss is the possibility

of developing American-Sudanese relations, a subject with puzzling aspects. The American ambassador to Sudan, Donald Petterson, comments on this, saying:

[Petterson, in English] Well, I will speak frankly, which is my custom, and say that relations between our two countries remain [as heard]. They turned bad back in 1989. Relations between our two countries became bad in 1989 when the military government overthrew the regime of the elected government. Since that time, relations have gradually worsened. The differences between us revolve around human rights; the government's failure to achieve freedom, freedom of speech, press freedom, and freedom of assembly; democracy; and the government's support for terrorism. Can we improve relations? I very much hope so. Certainly, we in the United States want to see better relations. [passage omitted]

[Announcer] In an attempt to specify these differences enumerated by the American ambassador and regarded as a basis for differences between the two countries, the ambassador at the Foreign Ministry, Mr. Mahdi Ibrahim said:

[Mahdi] First, relations must exist on this matter. It should be accepted that the type of government in any country is the option of its people. And what is necessary is for no country, be it great or small, to try to impose its will on the countries of the world to apply a system it wants, which is not wanted by the people (?concerned). If there is a difference between the government and its people, then it is the people's right to change the system in a manner similar to [words indistinct]. Sudan is known to not be considered a military regime by virtue of its means and its intellect. Therefore, we in Sudan do not accept being dictated to by anyone the type of government that suits us at the time and place we are now in. We tried different types of democracies and military governments. They did not get Sudan (?anywhere). [passage omitted]

[Announcer] If we look at the fourth point of difference between the two countries which Petterson, the American ambassador, dealt with, namely the Sudanese Government's support for terrorism. Mr. Mahdi Ibrahim, ambassador at the Foreign Ministry asked:

[Mahdi] Who classifies Sudan in the list of states that sponsor terrorism? The American Administration is the last to talk [words indistinct]. We are not isolated from the world, either historically or [word indistinct]. The American (?Administration) liquidated an entire society called the red Indians. It abandoned an entire people called the blacks, who were brought from Africa. There was no talk about the civil rights of the blacks except in the Sixties, after the famous revolution in the country in the Sixties [words indistinct]. The black man in America still has no ambitions to be I do not say president of America, but even the vice president. He still lives as a marginalized [word indistinct].

Entire peoples were exterminated in the United States, in America, and peoples were exterminated in other places. What is the justification for the extermination of the Vietnamese people and the use of the last [as heard] American arms arsenal to exterminate the people of Vietnam? What is the justification for the intervention and burning of houses and the killing of thousands by lethal weapons, as happened in Panama? What type of terrorism are they talking about in Sudan, when the American Administration seized the president of Panama by force, bound his hands and took him away with the knowledge of the world, (?took) him to America to try him. It killed 4, 5, or 6 thousand people before they got the president. It had dealt with him before. There had been agreement between it and him. He was on the payroll of the American intelligence organ. It knew of his connections with narcotics in the Latin American region [words indistinct].

This is terrorism, terrorism which allows the American Administration by a judicial law to take any citizen from any country whatsoever and to abduct him, to take him to America on the allegation that he committed an act that [word indistinct].

Libya was hit by American planes, and children were killed in Libya. By what right? Is this not terrorism? In Iraq now there is a blockade and behind it is the American Administration, a blockade against a people. Even if we accept political and military differences, and if we accept the argument of removing Iraq from Kuwait, who is imposing a blockade on a poor people, the price of which is paid by women, children, elderly and innocent people [words indistinct]?

And there is Israel. It does as it likes. It possesses all types of weapons and it is neither asked nor called to account, nor is it put on a terrorism list.

[Announcer] So, it would be more worthy for Israel to be put on the first list for terrorism. We asked Petterson, America's ambassador to Sudan, why America put Sudan on the list of terrorist states, though Sudan is a peace-loving country and has not seen political assassinations throughout its long political history. He replied:

[Petterson, in English] Yes, well, the United States Government placed Sudan on the list of states, sponsors of terrorism, only after a lengthy and careful review of evidence from multiple sources. [passage omitted]

[Mahdi] When Sudan is put on the terrorism list and the American Administration fails, with all the means available to it, namely knowledge and information, with the bodies and technology and agents in the region, when the American Administration fails to provide a justification that is convincing to Sudan and the world around us, this is proof that America does not have proof.

Suffice it to say that its former President Carter, who is not bound by a bond of kinship, brotherhood, or religion to Sudan, suffice it to say that he is [word indistinct], a man with a high degree of integrity. After he asked the

American bodies and found no information, he was the one who said this was a hasty decision which was not supported by the actual facts. Suffice it to say that the arbitrator in this is a man from America, who was its president. He cannot be described as naive.

[Announcer] In general, ladies and gentlemen, America's decision to put Sudan in the list of terrorism is not the world's decision. It is possible, as Ambassador Mahdi Ibrahim says, for any state to place America on the list of terrorist states.

Finally, ladies and gentlemen, we say our talk with the American ambassador to Sudan should prompt us to pause and reflect. [passage omitted]

Al-Bashir Claims Opposition 'Conspiring' With Foreign Forces

EA2111171193 Omdurman National Unity Radio in Arabic 1315 GMT 21 Nov 93

[Text] Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, the president of the Republic, has asserted that scattered remnants of the rejected parties and factions which gathered in a number of the world's capitals are openly conspiring with the forces of arrogance to effect foreign intervention in the country to overthrow the revolution. He said during a rally in the Dabbah area in the Northern State that the Sudanese people would teach the foreign forces an unforgettable lesson if they tried to intervene in Sudan.

Lt. Gen. al-Bashir said: We are preparing the Sudanese people to confront any intervention in defense of their faith and homeland. He stressed that the revolution truly represented the people, noting that the principles and values upheld by the revolution had unsettled the enemies of Islam, but the latter had forgotten that the revolution was not represented just by the Revolution Command Council but had come to embrace the entire Sudanese people. Thus, if the demolition of the revolution was their aim, then the entire population would have to be destroyed. He said the people had taken recourse to God and relied on none other than him. He called on the masses to observe God's law, to liberate themselves from partyism and tribalism and to unite their ranks.

Meeting in Cairo Called 'Desperate Attempt' by Rebels

EA1911211093 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1315 GMT 19 Nov 93

[Text] Reports from Cairo state that, in a desperate attempt by the rebellion to catch its breath after the defeats it has suffered, the rebel (Majok Ayok), the [rebel] movement's representative in Cairo, held a meeting which included southern students who are supporters of the movement, with the aim of searching for a way to support the movement as it faces defeats and confronts difficulties that threaten to shatter it.

The reports state that the meeting turned into a strong attack against and criticism of the rebel movement from the participants of the meeting, from the sons of the southern tribes. They declared their feeling of oppression and subjugation at the hands of the leaders of the rebellion, who come from the Dinka tribe, who receive all the support offered to the movement from foreign quarters which back it. The confrontation led to the breakup of the meeting.

Minister Comments on Tour of IGADD Countries

EA2111172393 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 21 Nov 93

[Text] Dr. Ali al-Hajj Muhammad, the minister at the Federal Rule Office, has announced that the presidents of the four states of the Intergovernmental Authority on Drought and Development [IGADD] initiative to bring about peace in Sudan expressed their keenness for the initiative to succeed when they received the letters from Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir. This is the first initiative of its kind to be undertaken by the states of the region. He said it was essential to profit from the experience of Somalia. Dr. Ali Al-Hajj said after his return from his tour of the IGADD countries that consultations were held with four presidents on the method to be adopted towards resolving the issue.

His excellency announced that the meeting of representatives from the presidents of the IGADD states which was to have been held on 22 and 23 November had been postponed to make way for further consultations and to collect documents pertaining to earlier initiatives. He expressed the government's keenness for the initiative of the IGADD states to succeed without foreign intervention.

Eastern State Governor, Ethiopian Delegation Meet

EA2011215593 Khartoum SUNA in French 1615 GMT 19 Nov 93

[Text] Kassala, 19 Nov (SUNA)—The governor of the Eastern State, Mr. al-Jayli Ahmad al-Sharif, has termed as eternal the relations which unite the two peoples of Sudan and Ethiopia. He said this during a meeting on Thursday [18 November] in Kassala, eastern Sudan, with the Ethiopian delegation to the meetings of the joint Sudanese-Ethiopian commission. Mr. al-Sharif also pointed out that relations between Sudan and Ethiopia had witnessed a remarkable development thanks to the evolution which had taken place on the Ethiopian political scene.

Dr. (Kalkela Ela), the head of the Ethiopian delegation, stressed that the establishing of relations with neighboring countries was one of the priorities of the Ethiopian Government, adding that such meetings could bring a solution to relations between the two countries.

The Sudanese ambassador to Ethiopia, Mr. Uthman al-Sayyid Fadl, stressed that the visit to the Eastern State by the Ethiopian delegation was in response to an invitation from the governor of the Eastern State. The Sudanese

diplomat also emphasized that the meetings of the joint commission of Sudan and Egypt (?are aimed at) furthering the excellent relations between the two countries.

According to Mr. al-Sayyid the Sudanese and Ethiopian sides agreed on the formation of two groups, the first one of which will discuss security and border issues while the second will study financial issues and projects to be established with a view to realizing the aspirations of the two peoples. The Sudanese diplomat added that the two sides had affirmed they would pay special attention to the development of bilateral relations.

Groups Send Cable of Support to al-Qadhdhafi

EA2111200593 Omdurman National Unity Radio in English 1500 GMT 21 Nov 93

[Text] The Council for International Peoples Friendship and Sudanese Committee for Supporting the Libyan Jamahiriyah sent a cable to the Libyan leader, Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi. The cable condemned the American domination and terrorism, expressing the Sudanese people's readiness to respond to the hard call in defending the Libyan land. [sentence as heard]

Kuwait

'Hundreds' of Iraqis Cross Into Demilitarized Zone

UNIKOM Spokesman Details Incident

LD2011144493 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1429 GMT 20 Nov 93

[Text] Kuwait, 20 Nov (KUNA)—Hundreds of Iraqis crossed the border into Kuwaiti territory this morning and attacked workers in the security belt in the northern sector of the demilitarized zone between Kuwait and Iraq.

This was announced by UNIKOM spokesman Abd al-Latif Qabbaj, in a statement to KUNA. He said this is the second Iraqi violation of the kind in less than a week.

The first incident occurred last Tuesday [16 November] in the area of the farms situated along the Kuwaiti side of the demilitarized zone.

The UNIKOM official spokesman said that the new incursion incident on the Kuwaiti border "took place at 1050 A.M.—0750 GMT".

He also said that the UN observers in the region saw the Iraqis gathering at the UNIKOM premises in the village of Um Qasr.

The spokesman indicated that the number of Iraqis who crossed the border was estimated at between 500 and 600 people. They crossed at border marker no. 105 and gathered at border marker no. 104 and also at the area used by UNIKOM for the landing of UN aircraft.

The UNIKOM official spokesman said that "the hundreds of Iraqis who crossed the border were waving Iraqi flags. They faced the engineers and workers in charge of the security cordon and forced them to draw back."

He further said "that the workers showed resistance in the face of the Iraqi aggressors and stopped their retreat. When the Iraqis attempted to displace them, one of the workers fired shots in the air, which led the Iraqis to withdraw."

The Kuwaiti workers on the security cordon withdrew because they wanted to avoid a clash with the Iraqis. The spokesman said that the Kuwaitis kept a distance between them and the Iraqis who had crossed the border.

The official UNIKOM spokesman said that at about 1230, most of the Iraqis retreated and climbed into a number of buses.

He added that one member of the UNIKOM force in the area had been hit by a stone during the incident.

The spokesman said: "The UNIKOM observers tried to prevent the Iraqis from crossing the border, and advized them not to cross the border. But they refused to comply and continued their march, declaring that they rejected the demarcation of the borders."

Qabbaj said that UNIKOM considers this incident to be a violation of the borders by the Iraqis and an attack on Kuwait from the demilitarized zone.

A group of journalists accompanying the Iraqis took photographs of this new Iraqi violation.

'Responsible Source' Confirms Incursion

LD2011173693 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1630 GMT 20 Nov 93

[Text] Kuwait, 20 Nov (KUNA)—A responsible security source confirmed that a new Iraqi violation of Kuwaiti territory occurred today, resulting in the wounding of a Kuwaiti policeman.

In a statement, of which KUNA has obtained a copy, the source stresses the need to put an end to these repeated provocations and attacks by the Iraqi regime and its agents. The source said: "The international community must exercise its responsibilities to deter the Iraqi regime, and ensure that it obeys international resolutions and respects recognized charters and agreements."

The responsible security source in the Ministry of Interior explained that today's incident occurred this morning; the Iraqi side transported between 500-600 Iraqis in civilian clothes and set them down near a sand barrier inside Kuwaiti territory.

The source added that the Iraqis pelted the UNIKOM and Kuwaiti patrols with stones, hitting a Kuwaiti policeman. They also raised the Iraqi flag on the sand barrier and attacked civilians working on the security trench.

The Kuwaiti source said: "The Ministry of Interior has informed UNIKOM of this Iraqi provocation and has also informed Kuwait's permanent representative at the United Nations of the incident."

It is worth noting that today's incident is similar to that which occurred last Tuesday in the area of farms spread along the Kuwaiti side of the border with Iraq.

The Kuwaiti security source described today's violation as: "A media performance, which the Iraqi regime has persisted [words indistinct]. It occurred at 1050 [0750 GMT] near border marker No. 105." [passage indistinct]

Cabinet Urges UN Action on Iraq

LD2111150493 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1314 GMT 21 Nov 93

[Excerpts] Kuwait, 21 Nov—Kuwait today called on the UN Security Council to take "effective measures to ensure that" the Iraqi regime "complies with all Security Council resolutions, respects the sovereignty of the state of Kuwait and ends its continuous violations which threaten peace and stability in the region."

Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Dakhil said after a meeting of the Kuwaiti cabinet that the cabinet "had stressed the seriousness of the repeated Iraqi attacks on Kuwait which embody the persistence of the ruling regime in Iraq in ignoring UN resolutions and defying the Security Council and international legitimacy."

He added that the cabinet had reviewed the details of the violation of the Kuwaiti borders yesterday morning by groups of Iraqis in civilian dress, which is part of the series of repeated provocations and acts of aggression which the Iraqi regime is carrying out against Kuwait. He said that the cabinet had been told of the Foreign Ministry's contacts with the United Nations to inform it of the aggression which constitutes a serious violation of Security Council resolutions related to the Iraqi aggression against Kuwait.

In this context, the Council of Ministers welcomed the UN Security Council's unanimous decision to uphold the international sanctions imposed on Iraq because of the latter's lack of commitment to implement all the Security Council's resolutions concerning its treacherous aggression against Kuwait. [passage omitted]

The council of ministers also decided to cease the implementation of its previous decision concerning the embargo against South Africa and give permission for the establishment of political, cultural, and trade relations between the two countries at both official and private levels in realization of constructive cooperation between Kuwait and South Africa in all fields. [passage omitted]

Opposition Leader Condemns Border Crossing

LD2111172193 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1427 GMT 21 Nov 93

[Excerpts] Kuwait, 21 Nov—Dr. Ahmad Chalabi, the chairman of the Executive Council of the Unified Iraqi National Congress [UINC], has condemned the attack carried out recently by the Iraqi regime on the Kuwaiti border, stressing that these came within Saddam Husayn's persistent attempts to spread chaos and instability in the region.

In an exclusive statement to KUNA here today, Dr. Chalabi said: Peace will not be realized in the region for as long as Saddam remains in power in Baghdad, because he will repeat his attempts to instigate problems and break away from the will of the international community. [passage omitted]

He said: Saddam, who was utterly defeated in the war of liberating Kuwait, when he exposed the Iraqi Army to the biggest humiliation in its modern history, will try to repeat the same thing in order to achieve his hostile objectives by using different methods.

He said that sending a few hundred people to the Kuwaiti border, under the pretext of demonstrating against Kuwait's decision to establish a security belt on its northern border, was a blatant defiance by the Iraqi regime of UN Security Council Resolution No. 833 concerning the demarcation of the border between Kuwait and Iraq. [passage omitted]

Dr. Chalabi derided the Iraqi regime's claims about democracy and defense of the freedom of expression. He said: The only democracy known to Saddam is the democracy of death and its equal distribution on the Iraqi people without distinction.

He added that the groups that infiltrated the Kuwaiti border did not represent the Iraqi people, and that they were agents hired by the repressive bodies of the Iraqi regime. He said: No one can drink water publicly without Saddam Husayn's consent, not to mention hundreds of people crossing the border with Kuwait, demonstrating there, and returning, and repeating the same thing a few days later as if nothing had happened.

Dr. Chalabi praised his talks with Kuwaiti officials and said that they were positive. [passage omitted]

Dr. Chalabi reaffirmed the UINC's recognition of the international resolutions pertaining to the border between Kuwait and Iraq. He said that the congress respected Kuwait's sovereignty over its territory, and as an independent state and a member of the United Nations and the Arab League. He said that the UINC wished to define its stance regarding that issue clearly and candidly. He added: The age of obscure statements is over. It is in the interest of the Kuwaiti and Iraqi people for these matters to be clear and without ambiguity. Dr. Chalabi said that the congress was well aware of the importance of making its stance clear, because it constituted the main step toward healing the rift that has resulted from the catastrophic invasion of Kuwait. [passage omitted]

Dr. Chalabi confirmed the existence of cooperation between the congress and Kuwait in connection with the Kuwaiti prisoners detained in Iraqi prisons. [passage omitted]

Dr. Chalabi called for the tightening of international sanctions on the Iraqi regime for not complying with the UN Security Council resolutions in connection with the war for liberating Kuwait, particularly Resolution 687 which prevented Iraq from retaining any chemical weapons.

He said that this resolution [words indistinct] and not the implementation of the rest of the international resolutions, especially after the forces of the Iraqi regime had recently used chemical weapons against the Iraqi people in al-Ahwar [marshes] in southern Iraq.

Chalabi said that Saddam's resort to the use of nonconventional weapons in al-Ahwar meant that those became the only means by which he could retain power; that means his end is very close. Therefore, it will be important to maintain the international sanctions on account of his persistent violations of international resolutions. [passage omitted]

Concerning the aims for which the UINC was working, Dr. Chalabi said that those aims could be summed up in calling for the toppling of the existing regime in Baghdad, the creation of a parliamentary democratic system, based on political pluralism and respect for human rights, and rejecting the policy of aggression and the use of force as a means for achieving political goals.

He said: We call for the building of a national army which defends Iraq's borders and people against the dangers threatening them and not a tool for external adventures or internal conspiracies.

In reply to a question, Chalabi pointed out that the current form of the UINC, as a political gathering of the main opposition forces in the Iraqi arena, was an effective force that succeeded in moving the Iraqi opposition from exile into Iraq.

He said that liberating Iraq could not be achieved from London or abroad, but only from inside Iraq, and that the congress was currently carrying out extensive activities in the field and in the political and media spheres.

UN Moving Troop Reinforcements to Border

NC2111163393 Paris AFP in English 1510 GMT 21 Nov 93

[Excerpt] Kuwait City, Nov 21 (AFP)—U.N. troop reinforcements being sent to the Iraqi-Kuwaiti border could be ordered to use their guns, a U.N. spokesman said Sunday [21 November], a day after a new incursion by hundreds of Iraqi demonstrators.

Meanwhile the Kuwaiti Government condemned the latest Iraqi violation and urged the U.N. Security Council to do more to protect the new disputed border.

The spokesman for the U.N. Iraq-Kuwait Observer Mission (UNIKOM), 'Abd-al-latif Kabbaj, said Bangladeshi troops due to arrive on the border next month "will be authorised to take physical action if necessary."

The United Nations has had 300 unarmed observers on the border since April 1991, but they are to be joined next month by a mechanised infantry battalion from Bangladesh comprising 775 men.

An advance party of Bangladeshi officers arrived Tuesday to supervise setting up the battalion's camp in the demilitarized zone at Khawr 'Abdallah, and around 100 more are expected to arrive in the next few days, U.N. officials said.

It will be the first time armed U.N. soldiers will have been deployed on the border since the end of the war to oust Iraq from Kuwait in February 1991. [passage omitted covered in ref]

Foreign Ministry Sources Cited on Border Problems

LD2011143593 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1023 GMT 20 Nov 93

[Excerpt] Kuwait, 20 Nov (KUNA)—A Kuwaiti paper here today quoted informed sources at the Kuwaiti Foreign Ministry as saying that in implementation of the UN Security Council resolutions, Iraq was compelled to vacate the farms which are inside the Kuwaiti border. The sources reaffirmed to AL-QABAS that the Iraqi farms inside Kuwaiti territory will be removed in accordance with the UN resolutions on this issue.

In reply to a question about compensating the Iraqi farmers whose farms are inside Kuwaiti territory, the sources said that the UN envoy whose duty is to estimate the compensation will submit his report on this matter to the UN secretary general during the period 25-30 November, and after that the necessary measures for implementing the compensation will be carried out. [passage omitted]

On the other hand the paper quoted Kuwaiti Foreign Ministry sources as saying that Kuwait is following the movements of Iraqis along the border between the two countries and that what happened last Tuesday in terms of Iraqi violation of the sovereignty of the Kuwaiti territory was expected. [passage omitted]

Qatar

Amir Returns From 'Cordial Visit' to UAE

JN1811184293 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1450 GMT 18 Nov 93

[Text] Doha, 18 Nov (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Hamad Al Thani returned to Doha from Abu Dhabi this afternoon after a cordial visit to the United Arab Emirates [UAE] on the official invitation of UAE President His Highness Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan.

The Qatari amir was welcomed upon his return home by His Highness Shaykh Hamad Bin-Khalifah Al Thani, Qatari heir apparent and minister of defense; cabinet ministers; the secretary general of the Consultative Council; ministry under secretaries; and senior state officials.

United Arab Emirates

British Commander Says Gulf States Still Threatened

NC2111142493 Paris AFP in English 1316 GMT 21 Nov 93

[Text] Abu Dhabi, Nov 21 (AFP)—Gulf Arab states are still threatened despite the presence of Western navies in

the region and the crushing of Iraq's formidable war machine, a British navy officer was quoted Sunday [21 November] as saying.

"Iraq certainly remains powerful," said Captain Charles Styles, commander of the British warship HMS Campbeltown.

"Although the nature of the next naval exercises will be relatively low key, it does not in any way minimise the threat posed by recent events in the region," he told the United Arab Emirates (UAE) daily GULF NEWS.

He spoke aboard Campbeltown, which visited Dubayy this week as part of its periodical port calls in the region, where Britain, France and the United States have maintained a naval presence to enforce United Nations Gulf war sanctions against Iraq and ensure free navigation.

Styles did not elaborate on the events but he was apparently referring to Iraq's occasional cross border incursions into Kuwait, Iran's island dispute with the UAE and its acquisition of two Russian-built Kiloclass submarines.

"The existence of submarines in a place where there is trade is bound to influence the strategic balance at sea. It is a significant factor," he said. "They are modern, capable submarines and we certainly take note of it."

Styles said joint exercises with Gulf Arab navies, staged frequently since the end of the war, were "regarded as a high priority."

Yemen

House Committee, Government Officials Discuss Crisis

JN1811212893 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 18 Nov 93

[Text] The House of Representatives' follow-up committee assigned the task of investigating the facts pertaining to the crisis has held a lengthy meeting with a governmental committee this evening. The meeting was cochaired by House of Representatives Speaker Shaykh 'Abdallah Bin-Husayn al-Ahmar and Prime Minister Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas. The staff of the Speaker's Office of the House of Representatives and deputy prime ministers attended.

At the outset of the meeting, the brother House speaker indicated that the aim of this meeting is to hold further discussions on the crisis that has extremely damaged the homeland and caused public concern in society. He added: Regardless of the causes of this crisis, we will overcome it and all other problems as well, God willing.

The House speaker went on to say: We all must work to create the propitious climate that will enable all to agree on the necessary remedial action and solutions. We must cooperate to accomplish this national mission.

The House speaker affirmed that the House of Representatives and the executive branch of government are a single team. They will work together to avert ordeals and tragedies and end the crisis. They will also continue with the efforts to build the homeland and promote the public interest.

Afterward, the conferees dwelt on the crisis, its causes, and its repercussions. They also debated the means to resolve it. The views and remarks of all conferees, whether members of the House committee or the governmental committee, were unanimous on the importance of effecting a stronger and broader relationship among the parties to the coalition government. They also affirmed the need to resolve all problems and negative phenomenon that surfaced during the transitional period. Moreover, they said that the causes of the current crisis must be identified. They emphasized that efforts to find a solution to this crisis must involve all members of the homeland. Parochial, sectarian, or partisan affiliations and considerations should be brushed aside in the efforts to resolve the crisis, they noted. Patriotism must be instilled in citizens to strengthen the foundations of unity. Besides, efforts must be made to foster justice and equality among citizens without any discrimination.

The debates affirmed the need for the Council of Ministers to work as a single team. Ministers, the conferees added, should not act upon the instructions they receive from their parties or political organizations. The coalition government must work to implement the plans and programs endorsed by the House of Representatives in accordance with a uniform perspective. Moreover, the state must be built on the basis of a uniform political program, one that would strengthen and entrench unity.

At the conclusion of this meeting, a parliamentary subcommittee was formed and assigned the task of working with a governmental subcommittee to follow up on the implementation of the decision which calls for the removal of the newly erected military checkpoints and positions. As for the Speaker's Office of the House of Representatives and the Prime Ministry, they will hold constant talks to follow up on the developments of the crisis to ensure that the parliament and the government make the necessary decisions regarding it.

Socialist Party Proposes Initiative To Overcome Crisis

PM2211155693 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 19 Nov 93 p 5

[Lutfi Shatarah report: "Socialist Party Proposes Initiative Mechanism"]

[Excerpt] Aden—The Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP] Political Bureau has submitted an initiative to President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, secretary general of the General People's Congress [GPC]. It was delivered by Deputy Prime Minister Brigadier Mujahid Abu-Shawarib. He also handed a copy of it to Shaykh 'Abdallah Bin-Husayn al-Ahmar, chairman of the Yemeni Reform Grouping

[YRG] Higher Committee and speaker of the House of Representatives. It is an attempt to devise a mechanism to extricate the country from the political crisis and resolve the crisis between the two main partners in the ruling coalition in Yemen (the GPC and the YSP).

The initiative, a copy of which AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT has obtained, stresses setting guarantees for the participation of all key Yemeni political forces in the required dialogue. Following is the text:

In the Name of God the Merciful, the Compassionate:

The current political crisis has worsened, and present issues and the dialogue mechanism are no longer sufficient to confront the deteriorations and find remedies. Thus we propose the following:

1. To broaden the dialogue mechanism through broader participation by political, unionist, professional, and creative national forces and national figures, in addition to the ruling coalition.

2. To discuss the causes and background of the political crisis which has accompanied unity since its establishment between the two parts of Yemeni on 22 May 1990, and which has recently worsened in a manner provoking serious concern over the country's future—which prompts us all to work to find practical solutions and remedies that would secure the future of unity and reinforce the course of democracy.

3. To stop the continuing deterioration before the dialogue is resumed, namely through the above-mentioned mechanism. That is, by returning military units to the positions in which they were stationed before the current crisis, and preventing any military, human, or material reinforcement.

4. If the dialogue reaches an agreement on a comprehensive national document that includes solutions and remedies, together with practical implementation measures, this agreement should be signed by the secretaries general of the GPC and the YSP, the YRG chairman, and leaders of the [other] forces and organizations.

Salih Receives U.S. Message on 'Political Differences'

JN2011182093 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 20 Nov 93

[Text] Brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, Presidential Council chairman, today received U.S. Ambassador Arthur Hughes, who conveyed to the brother chairman a message from the U.S. Administration on issues related to relations between the two friendly countries.

The message conveys the United States concern over continued political differences and their effect on stability in Yemen. The message reaffirms strong U.S. support for unity, democracy, and economic reform in our country. It expresses the U.S. Administration's eagerness for a solution to the existing political differences in Yemen based on peaceful dialogue. It indicates that any failure to the experiment in unity and democracy in Yemen will have negative results and repercussions that would affect the region and the Yemen people.

During the meeting, the brother chairman expressed our country's thanks and appreciation for the U.S. Administration's statement, which expressed interest in and concern about stability in our country and affirmed strong U.S. support for our country's unity, democracy, and free economy. He praised the level bilateral relations have attained and their steady movement toward closer cooperation in the joint interests of the Yemeni and American peoples, who are linked by relations of friendship and cooperation based on mutual respect and firm commitment to the principles of freedom, justice, democracy, and respect for human rights.

Syria Warns of 'Setback' to Unity

JN2011085793 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0800 GMT 20 Nov 93

[Text] People in Yemen fear that fighting and division between the two parts of the country may take place as a result of the exacerbated political crisis between Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, who resides in Sanaa, and his deputy 'Ali Salim al-Bid, who has been staying in Aden for months.

Reports said that the past two days witnessed military moves and the redeployment of southerner and northern units in the contact areas along the borders that split the two parts of Yemen in the past.

Prime Minister Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas is trying hard to contain the crisis through his efforts to hold a reconciliatory meeting between Salih and al-Bid. However, he has not yet succeeded.

Yemeni Foreign Minister Muhammad Salim Basindwah arrived in Damascus and handed Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad a message from his Yemeni counterpart. Informed sources in Damascus said that Syria has warned Yemen about the dangers the country would be exposed to if there were a setback in Yemeni unity. Syria also cautioned that certain parties are trying to undermine this unity.

Former South Yemen President Trying To Mediate Crisis

NC2111080793 Paris AFP in English 0107 GMT 21 Nov 93

[Text] Damascus, Nov 21 (AFP)—The former president of what was South Yemen, 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, revealed Saturday [20 November] he has been trying to mediate in the crisis pitting north against south in the three-year-old united Republic of Yemen.

Nasir Muhammad, who was overthrown in 1986 and has since been based in Damascus, told AFP he had held

separate talks here this week with Yemeni Foreign Minister Muhammad Salih Basindwah, who is aligned to the north, and Salim Salih Muhammad, a member of the president's council and a southerner.

He had earlier met an envoy of President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, a northerner, who is in dispute with Vice-President 'Ali Salim al-Bid, a southerner, whose envoy has also visited Nasir Muhammad this week.

Bidh has refused to travel to the capital Sanaa from the former South Yemeni capital Aden since August 19, demanding reforms including a programme to decentralise the economy, and the arrest of those behind a series of political attacks.

Meanwhile sources close to President Salih said he had agreed to let opposition politicians join proposed talks with the three-party coalition aimed at resolving the crisis.

Meetings could begin Monday if Bid's Yemeni Socialist Party (YSP) agreed, according to the sources, contacted by phone from Manama.

The opposition would enter discussions with the YSP, Salih's General People's Congress and the Moslem party al-Islah.

Observers said Salih was putting the ball back in Bid's court after he had demanded comprehensive participation in talks, combined with a freeze on troop deployments.

In the past few days, troops in northern and southern Yemen were reported to be on the move. The armies of the two former states still have not been united.

Five people were killed in a clash between soldiers from northern Yemen and villagers from the south, sources in Aden said on Friday.

Fighting broke out Thursday as the soldiers tried to enter Radfan, a village in former South Yemen, near the border which divided the northern and southern parts of the country before they were united in May 1990.

Villagers prevented the soldiers, from the neighbouring al-Kabsi camp, from entering Radfan.

Yemeni Defence Minister Haytham Qasim intervened to restore calm, the sources said.

Northern Soldiers, Southern Villagers Clash; 5 Killed

NC1911194793 Paris AFP in English 1643 GMT 19 Nov 93

[Text] Aden, Yemen, Nov 9 (AFP)—Five people were killed in a clash between soldiers from northern Yemen and villagers from the south, sources in the southern city of Aden said on Friday [19 November].

Fighting broke out Thursday as the soldiers tried to enter Radfan, a village in former South Yemen, near the border which divided the northern and southern parts of the country before they were united in May 1990.

Villagers prevented the soldiers, from the neighbouring al-Kabsi camp, from entering Radfan.

Yemeni Defence Minister Haytham Qasim intervened to restore calm, the sources said.

The military situation was reported to be calmer Friday.

In the past few days troops in northern and southern Yemen were reported to be on the move, amid a political crisis between President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, a northerner, and Vice-President 'Ali Salim al-Bid, a southerner.

Al-Bid has refused to travel to the capital Sanaa from Aden since August 19.

The armies of the two former states still have not been united.

Army Commander Denies Reports on Clashes

JN2211173693 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1710 GMT GMT 22 Nov 93

[Text] Brother Staff Colonel 'Ali Muhammad Salah, assistant chief of staff for operations and head of the military committee charged with visiting military units and formations and removing the military manifestations created recently as a result of the political crisis, has stated that all newly created military manifestations have been removed and that units have been returned to their previous bases.

In a statement to the Yemeni news agency, SABA', Col. Salah stated: What the various news agencies, papers, and radios reported about military deployments or clashes is unfounded. There were absolutely no clashes at all. All fighters and members of the Armed Forces are rising up to the level of the responsibility as they should. They will always remain defenders of unity, democracy, and national achievements and protectors of the constitutional legitimacy.

The assistant chief of staff, accompanied by a number of senior Armed Forces officers and members of the House of Representatives, visited a number of Army units and met with commanders and staff. He relayed to them greetings from the president, the vice president, and the defense minister. He stressed the importance of national unity and the need to build the Armed Forces so they can defend the revolution, its objectives, its unity, and its democratic achievements.

Tribal-Government Dispute Over Oil Field Detailed

NC1911191393 Paris AFP in English 1504 GMT 19 Nov 93

[Text] Sanaa, Nov 19 (AFP)—A Yemeni tribe has for two weeks prevented a U.S. oil company from prospecting, in order to pressure the government into paying it royalties, reliable Yemeni sources said here Friday [19 November].

Armed men from the 'Ubayda tribe have seized two drillers from the Hunt Oil Company and prevented it from pursuing its operations in the Duridan field, in the Ma'rib region 200 kilometers (124 miles) east of Sanaa, saying the government has not honored its commitments to the tribe.

The tribe wants the government to pay it a fixed levy from the oil revenues of the Ma'rib field, which was promised at the start of production in 1986, the sources said.

The Ma'rib region provides a large portion of Yemen's oil, currently estimated at 320,000 barrels a day.

The government had also pledged to hire several tribesmen in the oil fields, but failed to do so.

Another tribe in the region, the Daham, kidnapped two American engineers from the Hunt company for five days in May to put pressure on the authorities, who had sentenced to death four Daham members for killing a police officer.

Several foreigners have been kidnapped in Yemen in the past two years and vehicles belonging to foreign oil companies, including Hunt, have been stolen.

In April, six employees of Western firms subcontracting for Total-Yemen were seized for 12 hours by the southern Bani-Harith tribe, which wanted the local subsidiary of the French oil company to hire about 100 of its members.

In July 1992, six Hunt employees—four Americans and two Yemenis—were taken hostage by a tribe before being freed by the army.

Tariq 'Aziz Arrives in U.S. for Week-Long UN Visit

JN2111100393 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0920 GMT 21 Nov 93

[Text] New York, 21 Nov (INA)—Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz arrived in New York early today, Sunday, Baghdad time, on a week-long visit to the United Nations.

The deputy prime minister will begin political talks with UN officials tomorrow morning, Monday. He will first meet with Jose Luis Jesus, Cape Verdian permanent representative to the United Nations and current president of the UN Security Council.

The INA correspondent in New York said that Tariq 'Aziz will also meet with UN Secretary General Dr. Butrus-Ghali tomorrow morning.

The deputy prime minister is accompanied by a delegation comprising Lieutenant General 'Amir Muhammad Rashid, director of the Military Industrialization Organization; Foreign Ministry Under Secretary Dr. Riyad al-Qaysi, and several Iraqi experts.

The talks between Tariq 'Aziz and UN officials as well as Security Council members will center on the need for the UN Security Council to honor its commitments toward Iraq per Paragraph 22 of Resolution 687, which provides for lifting the unfair embargo imposed on Iraq once Iraq honors its commitments as enshrined in the aforementioned resolution.

Al-Sahhaf Writes Butrus-Ghali on Sanctions Decision

JN2111165093 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 21 Nov 93

["Text" of a letter from Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf to UN Secretary General Dr. Butrus Butrus-Ghali on 17 November—read by announcer]

[Text] Your Excellency Dr. Butrus Butrus-Ghali, UN secretary general, New York:

Your Excellency, I would like to draw Your Excellency's attention to the decisions made in the name of the Sanctions Committee in its 103d meeting. This committee was formed in accordance with Security Council Resolution 661.

The delegates of the United States, Britain, and France once again compelled the committee to make decisions aimed at perpetuating the unjust embargo imposed on the Iraqi people regarding even the basic civilian and humanitarian needs that were exempted by Security Council resolutions. This is designed to achieve transient and narrow-minded political gains for those states that ignore the suffering of our enduring people caused by these decisions.

The reason I am addressing you once again regarding the decisions made in the name of this committee is the fact that after each meeting held by this committee I find out that the delegates of these three states persist in imposing decisions that further harm our people and country, contrary to the UN Charter. We also noted that in the recent meetings they failed to honor the precedents set for the committee's work, and began to take a hardline approach on some humanitarian items. The committee previously approved similar items.

In this meeting, some delegates of the member governments in the committee, who had no deliberate political purposes, particularly the delegates of China and Morocco, objected to this selective method.

Below are only few examples of the requests the U.S. and British delegates rejected, particularly during the abovementioned meeting:

1. The British delegate rejected the importation of used machines for making plastic syringes for caustic material used in making soap, on the pretext that they can be used in industry. I believe it is clear to Your Excellency that soap is a basic civil material that directly impacts the health of the Iraqi citizen, and that importing this material is not banned in accordance with the UN Security Council resolutions. We see that the British delegate's rejection of these materials is an example of the selective rejection whose objective is to increase the suffering of the Iraqi people and to deprive them of the necessities of life.

2. The British delegate has also rejected the importation of agricultural tractor brakes. The Moroccan delegate in the committee has criticized the British delegate's rejection, especially since these materials are used in agricultural production. It is clear to Your Excellency that these materials make a direct contribution to agricultural production and to securing food for the Iraqi people. The British delegate's rejection is unjustified and aimed at obstructing Iraq's efforts to secure food for all citizens under a comprehensive economic blockade. Clearly, the British Government adopts mean positions in order to continue the unjust blockade on Iraq. It is adopting a revengeful approach that is linked with Britain's outworn colonialist stand toward the Iraqi people.

3. The U.S. and British delegates opposed importing copper pipes for refrigeration equipment under the pretext that they serve the industrial base. This opposition is an example of a determination to deprive the Iraqi people of the basic and necessary civilian means for daily life. As Your Excellency knows, Iraq's weather conditions in summer are severe. Cooling and air conditioning are necessary in all fields, especially in the field of preserving foodstuffs for household uses.

4. The American and British delegates opposed importing water taps, fans, and paper materials. These are basic civilian materials that have nothing to do with military use. They are not prohibited, even under the unjust Security Council resolutions. We see in this a

sheer rejection intended to tighten the comprehensive blockade imposed on the Iraqi people in order to achieve a goal, which will inevitably fail, namely, destabilizing the situation and annoying our mujahid people, who will never forget such hostile American-British positions.

5. The British delegate opposed importing pesticides, although they are processed materials used for civilian sanitary purposes and for protecting the citizen's health and the safety of the environment. We share the wonder of the Moroccan delegate who said: Does not the Iraqi citizen have the right to fight insects to protect his health and the safety of his environment?

Your Excellency: The American and British delegates' determination during the meeting to oppose importing materials of a civilian and human nature proves that the policy of prolonging and tightening the blockade on the Iraqi people is an immoral way to achieve premeditated political goals against our people and is not intended to ensure the implementation of the Security Council's resolutions. This made this committee's work exceed even the goals for which it was formed. We reaffirm that the committee's current ways will distort the UN's reputation and will prompt people to lose confidence in it. This should prompt Your Excellency to look into the nature of the objections raised by the American and British delegates. Your Excellency will find out that they come from narrow selfish policies that have nothing to do with the joint interests of the international community.

I hope that this letter will be circulated as a UN document. Please accept our best regards.

[Signed] Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf, foreign minister of the Republic of Iraq
[Dated] Baghdad, 3 Jumada al-Thani 1414, corresponding to 17 November 1993

UN Team To Visit Site of Alleged Chemical Warfare Use

JN1911125293 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1135 GMT 19 Nov 93

[Text] Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf has stated the following to the IRAQI NEWS AGENCY:

In the period preceding the political and technical talks among Iraq, the UN Security Council, and the UN Special Commission, set to start during the second half of this month in New York, quarters associated with the Iranian regime made false allegations about the alleged use of chemical weapons in the marshlands.

These allegations are not new. Every now and then the quarters associated with the Iranian regime fabricate allegations that have no credibility whatsoever and that are disregarded by foreign quarters. However, certain parties have given some fabricated attention to these latest allegations and have done so in an unprecedented manner.

Despite the fact that such allegations do not fall within the mandate of the UN Special Commission, the Special Commission decided to set up a team to investigate these allegations and dispatched it to Iran. When we learned about this decision before the team's departure, we informed Rolf Ekeus, chairman of the Special Commission, through an official memorandum that Iraq wishes to join the investigation team. The Commission chairman, however, turned down this request.

After the team ended its mission in Iran, the Special Commission yesterday issued a statement saying that the Commission has ended the first stage of its mission in Iran and specified the alleged place where chemical weapons have allegedly been used. The statement also says the team will move to Iraq to investigate the said place and will not make any statement on the results of its work until it finishes the second stage.

Any expert on chemical weapons can easily conclude that this method of investigation is unusual and tendentious. The team that went to Iran is comprised of doctors and chemical experts who could verify these allegations if there were any injuries as claimed by the quarters associated with Iran. These injuries can be identified by physical examinations and blood tests. The team, however, deliberately left the situation ambiguous to continue the investigation while the political and technical talks are being held in New York. They are doing this in order to take advantage of this investigation to create a climate of ambiguity and doubt over Iraq's commitment to the clauses of Resolution 687. They also want to produce an atmosphere of distraction in the UN Security Council when the Iraqi team, headed by the deputy prime minister, explains Iraq's clear position, which is supported by documents and data, on that matter and asks the UN Security Council to fulfill its obligations to end the unjust blockade imposed on Iraq and implement Paragraph 22 without any delay.

The entire operation was conducted in a tendentious manner and for that objective. Despite this, Iraq, which is confident about its position, will allow the Special Commission's team to visit the place it wants to visit.

Regime Said Hiding Victims of Chemical Weapons Attacks

NC1911194693 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1700 GMT 19 Nov 93

[Text] According to Iraqi opposition sources, the regime has deployed large forces in the marshlands to prevent the residents from fleeing to Iran and exposing its crimes. The sources said that the Baghdad regime's authorities are detaining the victims of the chemical bombardment in secret hideouts to conceal the evidence of its use of internationally-banned chemical weapons against the marshlands citizens in the south.

Opposition Group: Regime Deploying Chemical Weapons

LD2211122493 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0856 GMT 22 Nov 93

[Excerpts] Tehran, 22 Nov—An Iraqi opposition group, whose headquarter is in Iran, said the Iraqi regime has been secretly deploying chemical bombs at its military barracks in the Marshes regions of southern Iraq for the purpose of using them in the future against the inhabitants of those regions.

The group—The Mujahidin of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq, whose headquarter is in Ahvaz, southwest Iran—added in a statement received by the KUWAITI NEWS AGENCY, KUNA, from an Iraqi officer that the [Iraqi] regime has distributed these bombs to all military sectors and that during a recent meeting of senior military commanders it ordered that these chemical weapons be used against inhabited areas. The statement said the officer in question, who did not reveal his identity, told the mujahidin sources that secret and stringent instructions had been given to them concerning the use of these deadly weapons against civilians in the marshes region.

The statement noted that the military units which recently received the chemical bombs include the artillery battalion stationed near the 3d Army Corps and the artillery battalion stationed near the Southern Oil Company in northern Rumaylah. [passage omitted]

The Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq, whose headquarters is in Tehran, says the Iraqi regime has used chemical weapons and the internationally banned napalm-type bombs several times against civilians in the north and south of Iraq, most recently in the marshes of Abu Zargi.

UN Investigation of Chemical Weapons Use Criticized

JN2011091193 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0730 GMT 20 Nov 93

[Text] Baghdad, 20 Nov (INA)—The newspaper AL-'IRAQ has stressed that the biased methods used to try to realize the so-called international legitimacy and impose U.S. arrogance are doomed to failure and can be confronted.

In an editorial today, the paper denounces the strange methods pursued by the UN Special Commissions's team and the tendentious propaganda campaign promoted by the suspect quarters associated with the imperialist-Zionist alliance against Iraq and the allegations they circulate on the use of chemical weapons in the marshlands.

The paper says: The timing of these allegations is designed to come before the technical and political talks open between Iraq, the Security Council, and the Special Commission and prior to Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz's visit to present the Security Council with the facts confirming that Iraq has fulfilled its obligations.

Noting the size of the parties involved in the campaign and the nature of the tools charged with executing it, AL-'IRAQ adds that the recent escalation in the propaganda war clearly seeks to counter the dilemma that the United States and the parties of the evil alliance have fallen into since the world has realized that the pretexts for the blockade are no longer valid and demanded a decisive step in the direction of a quick resolution.

The paper says: With some thinking, we can understand the motives behind this strange course by the Special Commission and why it involved itself directly in the deception campaign that seeks to cast doubts over Iraq's sincere positions and its commitment to the clauses of Resolution 687. This conflicts with the nature of its mission and its basic duty to present the true picture of the cooperation displayed by the Iraqi side.

Paper Views Chemical Weapons Allegations, Embargo

JN2111085993 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0718 GMT 21 Nov 93

[Text] Baghdad, 21 Nov (INA)—The newspaper AL-THAWRAH says that Iraq's agreement to receive a team of experts affiliated with the Special Commission to visit whatever places it chooses reflects immense self-confidence as well as credibility with regard to the measures it has taken to implement Resolution 687, [words indistinct] to lift the embargo.

In an article published today, the paper comments on the allegations regarding the alleged use of chemical weapons in the marshlands, saying: The Commission's dispatch of an investigation team to Iran before Iraq is a fresh exposed attempt to clutch at any alleged shred of evidence that could be used to counter the cogent proof carried by the Iraqi delegation to the negotiations with the United Nations, which shows that Iraq is now clear of mass destruction weapons.

AL-THAWRAH notes that the Commission has nothing to do with the allegations in this regard, because its mandate is to conduct inspections and look for weapons of mass destruction. The paper contends that the Commission should have dispatched the inspection team to Iraq first and foremost if there was a need for dispatching such a team in the first place. This is because Iraq is the party to the dispute, the paper adds.

The paper notes the constant attempts and fabrications used to extend the embargo, saying that the decision to extend the embargo this time was difficult, particularly since only the United States and Britain showed determination to ensure the passage of this decision.

The paper adds that the difficulty of extension this time shows the reasons behind fabricating allegations regarding the alleged use of chemical weapons in the marshlands.

AL-THAWRAH says that the major parties to the 30-state aggression, namely, the United States and Britain, along with Tehran, fabricated these allegations after they realized that Iraq had honored its commitments toward Resolution 687, and that the UN Security Council must, consequently, lift the sanctions per Paragraph 22 of the aforementioned resolution.

Dailies Denies Chemical Attack, Denounce Embargo

JN2111161493 Baghdad INA in English 1350 GMT 21 Nov 93

[Text] Baghdad, Nov 21, INA—During its review of the trade sanctions on Iraq, the UN Security Council on Thursday [18 November] decided to keep the sanctions on for another two months, THE BAGHDAD OBSERVER write up said.

According to sources who attended the recent review of the sanctions, all members of the Security Council except the United States and Britain were in favour of lifting the sanctions, at least partially. France called for implementing Paragraph 22 of Security Council Resolution 687 which called for an end to the embargo on Iraq's oil exports. China is in favour of lifting the trade sanctions completely, the daily added.

The only members who were against an end to the sanctions were the United States and Britain.

Any one who is following developments in the region can see clearly how these two countries are collaborating and plotting against the people of Iraq.

Most recently Britain, in collaboration with the Iranian regime, has fabricated a new story against Iraq alleging that the Iraq Armed Forces have used chemical weapons in the marshes of southern Iraq.

THE BAGHDAD OBSERVER maintains that the timing of the false story was chosen at a time when the Security Council was about to have its every two month session to review the economic sanctions on Iraq. The fabricated story also aims at foiling the Iraqi-UN Special Commission technical talks which have already started in New York.

Now the Special Commission is involved in investigating the allegations of Iraq's use of chemical weapons. The commission sent an inspection team to Iran, and another team was sent to Iraq, although such issues are not within the power of the Special Commission. Iraq has expressed its readiness to cooperate with the team and render all facilities needed. Iraq said it would allow the team to go to any place to carry out its investigation.

It is known even to those who have created the story that Iraq has not used chemical weapons against its people in the south. But the whole story is meant to prolong the UN sanctions.

The Iraqi Government is not attacking its people in the south. On the contrary, over the last three years since the U.S.-led aggression in 1991, the government has been launching an ambitious plan to reconstruct all installations bombed by the aggressors. Every day there is an announcement by the Iraqi local press of rebuilding this bridge and that school in the marshes, the newspaper confirms.

The recent visit paid by foreign news and television agencies to the marshes is a big testimony to the falsehood of British and American allegations. Foreign correspondents spoke to the marsh people who ruled out Iraqi Army's use of chemical weapons against them.

It is really the time for the Security Council to lift the embargo on Iraq as it has complied with all of the council's resolutions.

Iraq has extended all help to the UN Special Commission and its inspection teams and rendered all the information needed. This is not an Iraqi testimony. Rather it was a statement by the commission's chief Rolf Ekeus who said Iraq is cooperating with his commission's task in Iraq.

When Britain and the United States found that there were no any other execuses for prolonging the sanctions, these two countries are trying to create new execuses such as the alleged use of chemical weapons.

Iraqis know very well since the beginning of the aggression in 1990 and before that these two countries (Britain and U.S.) do not want to see them an independent and advanced nation.

However, Iraqis are learning from the continuation of the embargo. They are inventing new methods in industry and agriculture almost every day which would help them withstand the sanctions and eventually achieve self-sufficiency in many items, the daily concluded.

BABIL daily has also denounced the decision taken by the Security Council on maintaining the economic sanctions on Iraq and described it as a cowardice act.

The daily pointed out the UN Security Council permanent members' activity for holding meetings with the non-permanent members to muster a new attitude hostile to iraq.

It has said they have reached a draft resolution to be presented routinely and speedily after having completely cooked their plan so that the Security Council has lately taken its usual decision on continuing the economic sanctions. They have not even allowed any fair voice to query about how much Iraq has implemented of the council resolutions and what it was really required from it to raise the sanctions.

AL-THAWRAH daily today commented on Iraq's acceptance to receive a Special Commission team of experts to visit the site it wanted, saying that it reflected high self-confidence and sincerity of the measure it had adopted to implement the Resolution 687 and its right to lifting the sanctions.

The daily added in a comment on fabrications on using chemical weapons in the marshes area in south Iraq, sending a team to Iran by the commission to carry out investigation before sending a team to Iraq is another exposed attempt to create any fabricated lie and taking it a pretext to encounter the conclusive evidences the Iraqi negotiating team with the United Nations is carrying which prove Iraq being free from mass destruction weapons.

AL-THAWRAH daily has further affirmed that though these allegations do not fall within the commission's jurisdiction, it has to send the investigation team to Iraq in the first place if there has been such a need to send the team because Iraq is the party meant by the subject aroused.

The daily has cited the continued attempts and lies used for extending the blockade and said the latest decision was taken with difficulty and the United States and Britain did not insist on it. It added that the difficulty of renewing it clarified the reasons behind fabricating allegations about the use of chemical weapons in the marshland area.

Iraq-U.S. Contacts Said Making 'Substantial Progress'

JN1911211693 Dubayy AL-BAYAN in Arabic 11 Nov 93 p 21

[Text] London—AL-BAYAN—Responsible Palestinian sources have said contacts are currently under way between the United States and the Iraqi Government through Palestinian officials to conclude a deal between the two sides. The deal basically aims at lifting the blockade imposed on Iraq in return for its approval of and support for the peace process in the region and an Iraqi pledge not to do anything that might obstruct the negotiations.

The sources said these contacts have made substantial progress and have resulted in the easing of Iraqi propaganda against the peace process.

The sources indicated there are contacts designed to reactivate the Iraqi oil pipeline that passes through Jordan to Haifa in Israel in order to export Iraqi oil through Israel.

Foreign News Agencies Cited on 'Fatal Blow' Exercise

JN2011082593 Baghdad BABIL in Arabic 10 Nov 93 p 2

[Report carried within the "According to Foreign News Agencies" column]

[Text] Baghdad, 9 Nov—Specialized units in the Iraqi Army conducted military maneuvers yesterday, Monday, in which ground-to-ground missiles were used for the first time since the end of the 30-state aggression against Iraq in February 1991. The Iraqi papers published today said that the maneuvers code-named "Fatal Blow" were conducted in an area near the city of Karbala', 110 km southwest of Baghdad, in the presence of Defense Minister Staff General 'Ali Hasan al-Majid.

The newspapers noted that the missiles, al-Ra'd [Thunder] and al-Tariq [Striker], burst forth as lightning arrows, hitting their targets with a high degree of accuracy and effectiveness. The papers, however, did not disclose the range of these two types of missiles.

Last night, Iraqi Television showed film clips of the maneuvers in which approximately 14 missiles were fired from mobile launchers at their targets in the open desert. The length of these missiles ranges between 6 to 7 meters.

Before the Gulf war, Iraq possessed approximately 800 missiles, one quarter of which were al-Husayn and al-'Abbas types, the range of which are 650 and 800 km respectively. Iraq also possessed approximately 50 stationary and 40 mobile launchers. The Iraqis used missiles of those types against targets inside Iran in the 1980-1988 Iraq-Iran war and against targets inside "Israel" during the 30-state aggression.

Last October, a UN team of experts said that they did not find any equipment banned by the resolutions of the international organization in Iraq. The head of the team, Nikita Smidovich, said that the mission of his team, the largest since the end of the 30-state aggression, focused mainly on the search for equipment used in the Iraqi missile production program.

Rabin Said To Move Toward Achieving Syria Agreement

Rabin Expected To Proceed Without SHAS

TA2111053593 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0500 GMT 21 Nov 93

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin will return from an 11-day visit to the United States and Canada this afternoon and will be received in a full military ceremony at Ben-Gurion Airport. Political sources in Jerusalem assess that the prime minister will act toward achieving an agreement of principles with Syria within two months. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that according to these sources Prime Minister Rabin will not be able to wait for SHAS' [Torah Observing Sephardim] rejoining the coalition, and will opt for strengthening the relationship with Meretz, among other things by transferring the interior portfolio to Minister Yosi Sarid's safekeeping. According to this assessment the prime minister will attempt to bring the HADASH [Democratic Front for Peace and Equality] and Arab Democratic Party factions closer to the coalition.

Golan Plans Needed Before Christopher Visit

TA2211054993 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0500 GMT 22 Nov 93

[Text] Political sources in Jerusalem say that in anticipation of the U.S. secretary of state's visit to the region early next month, Israel will have to present to Damascus detailed plans for a withdrawal on the Golan Heights, specifying the depth of the withdrawal, its phases, and the scope of the troop demilitarization.

Our correspondent Hayim Hecht has learned from staffers at the prime minister's bureau that Yitzhaq Rabin has not instructed the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] to draw maps or draft any other plans related to a withdrawal on the Golan Heights.

Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin has reiterated that the IDF will withdraw from Lebanon only after its Army deploys north of the security zone and disarms Hizballah and the area is quiet for six months; then Israel will agree to sign a peace agreement with Lebanon. Our army affairs correspondent points out that this position was made clear to the U.S. Administration during the prime minister's visit.

Later this morning, Mr. Rabin will brief the cabinet on his talks in the United States.

Syria Development 'Definitely' Expected

TA2211102293 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1000 GMT 22 Nov 93

[Text] The cabinet session is over. The prime minister briefed the ministers on his talks in Washington. Minister 'Uzi Bar'am told our correspondent Hayim Hecht that he gathered from the briefing that a development may definitely be expected in the talks with Syria, although not within the next few days. According to Bar'am, Secretary of State Christopher's visit to the region will enable the discussion of several issues still pending clarification.

Minister Yosi Sarid raised the behavior of right-wing demonstrators in the territories, and many ministers joined in his criticism at the helplessness of the law enforcement authorities in handling the rioters. Minister Sarid said that within the next few days he expects the law enforcement authorities to deploy in a totally different manner to deal with this issue. The attorney general submitted to Mr. Rabin a document he formulated on the issue. The prime minister announced that an in-depth discussion of the document will be held during the next cabinet session.

Developments on Syrian Track Reported

TA2111094593

[Editorial Report] Several Israeli Hebrew papers and Tel Aviv IDF Radio on 21 November report developments on the Israeli-Syrian track.

An "Exclusive Report From Montreal" by 'Aqiva Eldar, Yerah Tal, Eytan Rabin, and Gay Bekhor on pages A1 and A10 of Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ states: "Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin reached an understanding with President Bill Clinton that the negotiations with Syria will resume immediately after Israel and Jordan sign a peace agreement. The Syrian negotiations include: sovereignty over the Golan Heights, security arrangements, and the time table for normalization. This was reported by a senior Israeli source who is familiar with the details of the Rabin-Clinton meeting.

"In the meeting 10 days ago, it was agreed that the United States will ask Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad to signal to Jordan's King Husayn that Syria will not disrupt or protest contacts toward a peace agreement between Israel and Jordan. Rabin authorized President Clinton to promise al-Asad, on Rabin's behalf, that if al-Asad allows a breakthrough with Jordan, there will be progress in the negotiations with Syria on the Golan, the security arrangements, and peace, within a few months, not years.

"In his message to al-Asad, Clinton indeed clarified that Rabin had pledged his commitment to progress in the negotiations with Syria. So far, Syria has declined the offer. U.S. officials currently hope that in their meeting next month in Damascus, Secretary of State Warren Christopher will manage to convince al- Asad. Several months ago, a senior Israeli delegate to the peace talks with Syria forwarded an offer whereby the Israeli Government would recognize Syrian sovereignty over the Golan in return for establishing diplomatic relations.

"At the time, the prime minister rejected the idea, but after the agreement with the PLO was signed, the Americans realized that Rabin supports it in principle. He wishes,

however, to implement the agreement with the PLO and sign an additional agreement with Jordan first."

The HA'ARETZ report further adds: "A senior Labor Party source said last night that Rabin is still determined not to carry out a full withdrawal from the Golan Heights, even if a full peace with Syria is established. Recently, there have been differences on this matter between Rabin and Foreign Minister Peres. While Rabin opposes a full withdrawal even in return for a full peace, Peres, who so far also maintained this stand, has recently made his stand more flexible. According to the source, he is now willing to accept a withdrawal from the Golan Heights and a return to the June 1967 borders.

"At the same time, Peres makes a full withdrawal conditional on security arrangements that would satisfy Israel. This should include an agreement that any territory evacuated by Israel would be clear of Syrian soldiers, and the territory and areas to the east of it would be demilitarized. According to the Labor source, the Syrian president has recently relayed to Israel—via the Americans and Egyptian President Mubarak—his willingness to sign a peace agreement with Israel. This agreement would be modeled after the Israeli, Egyptian agreement and would include a full Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights."

The HA'ARETZ report goes on to say that "according to the Labor source, Rabin decided to postpone debating and making decisions regarding the Syrian matter because he finds it difficult to decide on a withdrawal or even partial withdrawal from the Golan Heights that would entail removing settlements. The senior source believes that the fact Christopher is coming to the region at the beginning of next month indicates that there has been some progress on the Syrian track. It seems that Rabin will eventually have no choice but to enter negotiations that will conclude with a Golan withdrawal."

Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR carries a report by Pe'erli Shahar and news agencies on pages 1 and 4 which, citing "senior political sources who have recently conferred with Egyptian President Mubarak," says: "Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad may announce that he is willing to meet Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin after he meets U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher." The report says that it is not yet clear whether the meetings will be secret or open.

'AL HAMISHMAR adds that "Christopher will present to al-Asad a U.S. willingness to extend economic aid in return for Syria's agreement to reach true peace with Israel. Christopher will also offer al-Asad a meeting with President Bill Clinton, provided that he agrees to launch a real peace process.

"Careful assessments in Jerusalem believe that the negotiations will last several months, and end in the first half of 1994."

A report by Nehama Doweq on pages 1 and 15 of Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT adds: "Egyptian President Husni Mubarak sent a message to Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin through Moshe Shahal, minister of police and of energy and infrastructure stating 'An arrangement with Syria will be made soon. It will be achieved after Warren Christopher visits the region. I suggest you do not pressure the Syrians.'

"On Friday [19 November], Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres said there will be no change regarding the resumption of negotiations with Syria, at least not before the arrival of Warren Christopher at the beginning of December.

"Speaking in Canada on Friday, Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin said that Israel is willing to withdraw from the Golan Heights: 'We know that the price of peace is territory and land, and we are willing to pay it,' he said."

Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 0600 GMT carries a report by political correspondent Udi Segal on Mubarak's upbeat assessment regarding the prospects of a breakthrough on the Israeli-Syrian track "in the very near future." In a recorded passage, Itamar Rabinovich, Israel's ambassador in the United States, says he is not familiar with this assessment: "Such an assessment has still not been submitted at the negotiations in which I am participating. It is, therefore, very difficult for me to see such a breakthrough as imminent."

Commenting on the talks with the Palestinians and Jordan, Rabinovich further says: "In our talks in the United States, we explained that our present priority is to implement the agreement with the Palestinians. After that, we will strive to facilitate the negotiations with Jordan, which have already seen significant progress. It goes without saying that if Syria helps, or at least abstains from interfering, it will benefit as early as in the next few weeks when negotiations with Syria are pursued."

Mubarak Said Trying To Mediate Between Israel, Syria

TA2011185993 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1800 GMT 20 Nov 93

[Text] Police Minister Moshe Shahal says the Palestinians now want a 15,000-man police force for the territories and this is a number Israel can accept.

Egyptian President Husni Mubarak sent a message with Police and Energy Minister Shahal to Prime Minister Rabin and Foreign Minister Peres. Shahal would not disclose the contents of the message, but said that Mubarak told him he was trying to mediate between Israel and Syria. Shahal said that the Egyptian president said he believed that a peace agreement would include Syria.

On other matters, Shahal said that Israel and Egypt would appoint a European company to conduct a technical and economic feasibility study on construction of a gas pipeline between Egypt and Israel. He said that Egypt has agreed to sell Israel natural gas.

Netanyahu on Syrian Talks, Golan Withdrawal

TA1911184593 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR (SHABAT supplement) in Hebrew 19 Nov 93 pp 7, 8

[Interview with Likud Chairman Binyamin Netanyahu by Tzvi Timor and Yehuda Tzur; place and date not given]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] ['AL HAMISHMAR] You recently spoke about a readiness to withdraw from the Golan Heights within the framework of a peace accord.

[Netanyahu] Our position is that we oppose a withdrawal on the Golan or from the Golan Heights.

['AL HAMISHMAR] But you said on television that if the proposal refers to several centimeters, as Rabin spoke about, you and your party will not oppose it.

['AL HAMISHMAR] What you did not hear was the context. It was said in reference to the efforts we are currently investing to try to reach a wide-ranging agreement on amending the Golan Heights Law. As part of that effort, I was asked what the basis for progress can be, and I suggested that in the initial stage, Labor return to the position it expressed prior to the general elections. That will definitely make the gap between us much smaller.

['AL HAMISHMAR] Did you say that as the basis for your possibly joining the coalition?

[Netanyahu] I said it as a suggestion to Labor so that it remains loyal to its platform and the promises it made to its voters. As long as the only subject on the agenda is returning the Golan to Syria, and that means giving them back that platform for the next war, we will not achieve peace. We might obtain a temporary peace treaty, but the moment we put the Syrians on the Golan, we will be removing ourselves from there. Since that is the issue, if you descend from the Golan, from a military viewpoint, you do not return there. We have already fought that war, and the Syrian Army is no longer the same army. It is at least three times larger, much better equipped, and has much more professional commanders than in 1967.

['AL HAMISHMAR] But within the framework of the security arrangements, that area will remain demilitarized. There was even a proposal for an American or multilateral force to control the area.

[Netanyahu] Whoever believes that the Americans would be prepared to deploy a defense force to serve as a human buffer against a Syrian attack, is not living in this world. The Americans might contribute forces of the kind they sent to Sinai, but not fighting forces to stop the fifth biggest army in the world.

Peace has in fact been maintained on the Syrian front since 1974 for the simple reason that the Syrians discovered in the Yom Kippur War that even when they have maximum surprise capability, our presence on the Golan is such that it is sufficient to absorb an attack, hit back, and within three weeks be at the gates of Damascus. But if the area is demilitarized, a decision is made on a situation in which we will descend from the plateau. That means that the Syrians only need to advance up to the edge of the heights while we have to climb back up. And that climb is something I would not like to wish on any army. It makes a tremendous difference. I would even go beyond that and say: Our most recent action in Lebanon [Operation Accountability in July 1993] could not even have been imagined had the Syrians been deployed on the Golan.

['AL HAMISHMAR] Is the formula: "The extent of the withdrawal parallels the extent of the peace," unacceptable to you?

[Netanyahu] As I said, we have had a de facto peace with the Syrians since 1974, because they understand that they have no alternative. We are sitting above them. We have advantages in intelligence and firepower. That might be one of their arguments, but they know that we do not want war but peace.

['AL HAMISHMAR] The Syrians claim that we threaten Damascus more than they endanger Tel Aviv.

[Netanyahu] But in order to achieve a peace treaty with Syria I have to give up a strategic asset which prevents war, and within a short time I might become exposed to war. Therefore, I would suggest making a wider deal with the Syrians because they have political interests, which in my view, go beyond the Golan. In my view, money and economic aid are the al-Asad's regime's first priority. The Syrians can receive those only from the West, that is, the United States: Technology, funds, removal from the list of states which support terrorism, which is worth a great deal economically.

['AL HAMISHMAR] We have just heard that al-Asad will be invited to the United States.

[Netanyahu] I have no problem with that. In the existing situation, Syria, must enter into a political peace process, first of all, for economic reasons. It also has a very acute water problem, because Turkey "diverts" the Euphrates, which provides most of Syria's water resources. I do not see how Syria can overcome its water problems within the next 20 years without cooperating with us. Neither state can put up the projects needed to solve its water problems. I have mentioned at least two Syrian interests in wanting peace, and I have not even mentioned commercial and other interests, which can find expression in negotiations. Of course, if Syria feels that Israel is prepared to divest itself of strategic assets it will demand them. It will demand what it thinks it can get.

['AL HAMISHMAR] When you went to the Madrid conference, did you believe that Syria would make peace without getting territories in return?

[Netanyahu] In the final hours of the Madrid conference, I stayed on as head of delegation after Shamir returned home. We were due to conclude the deliberations at

noon, and announce that the talks would continue at some other date. About an hour before the completion of the talks, the Americans informed me that the Syrians refused to come to Washington unless we make a commitment to withdraw from the Golan. I informed them that they can either come to Washington or not, that is their choice, but that cannot be a condition. For a short time there was concern that there might be a blow up, and people wondered whether the Syrians would come or not. The talks ended, Baker met with Faruq al-Shar' for over an hour. The outcome was that they did come to Washington.

They must negotiate. In my view, the cards Israel is holding—diplomatic, economic, and geopolitical—permit it to negotiate with Syria and the other delegations—especially the Palestinians—from a position of relative strength. Therefore, there is no justification for the negotiations to be conducted from weakness. The prime minister has lots of devices he is simply not using. I would have used them.

['AL HAMISHMAR] How are your relations with the new U.S. Administration?

[Netanyahu] I must say positive.

['AL HAMISHMAR] Better than they were with the previous administration?

[Netanyahu] I do not differentiate. I have not hidden the fact that when there is an administration that pressures Israel to make concessions that endanger our security, I am prepared to express my outright opposition. I completely reject what some of us accept, that if the Americans say something, we have to condone it, not because I want to provoke them, but because we have vital interests. I believe in our ability to insist on those interests, to explain them, and convince those in the United States who in the final analysis decide matters.

My outlook is that this government is missing the opportunity to achieve viable peace accords. This policy of achieving peace at any price will achieve the contrary. Instead of adopting cautious bargaining tactics, in which an Israeli concession is made only in return for a concession by the other side, this government puts its foot on the accelerator and pushes down hard, which will drive us to the edge of the cliff. It is true that there is a time limit, but I have never heard of a government that points a pistol at itself in order to achieve an agreement within a certain number of months and finalize negotiations within a certain number of weeks.

The difference between us and Labor is that we believe in our ability to negotiate peace from an outlook that the peace is based on security, and not the contrary, and also because, in my view, we are better negotiators. In view of the way negotiations have been handled in recent months, that outlook has been intensified.

['AL HAMISHMAR] Was the possibility that the Likud might join the coalition, which had been raised, based on that?

[Netanyahu] No, if the government sticks to its current negotiating guidelines. I will put it another way: Is the prime minister ready to change his government's guidelines and the handling of the negotiations? If he is, then I will be prepared to listen.

['AL HAMISHMAR] That is, then the headline for the evening: "Netanyahu prepared for Rabin to present him with a plan for changing the guidelines of his government's policy." What do you think?

[Netanyahu] Yes. [passage omitted]

Rabin Speaks on Return From U.S., Canada Tour

TA2111153493 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1336 GMT 21 Nov 93

[News conference by Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin at Ben-Gurion Airport upon his return from his U.S. and Canada tour—live; broadcast in progress]

[Text] [Rabin] ....the signing of the Declaration of Principles agreement with the PLO. The aim of the visit was to review with the President, the secretary of state, the national security adviser, and the relevant officials in the administration where we stand on the peace process in general, and the negotiations with the Palestinians in particular. I updated the President, the secretary of state, and their assistants on our stands in the negotiations, the current hardships, the existing gaps in the positions, and our determination to continue the talks in order to carry out our commitment, as long as the Palestinian commitment remain valid. We also discussed the opportunities available and paths that must be taken to continue the negotiations with our other interlocutors: Jordan, Syria, and Lebanon.

We also discussed the security situation and the efforts by opponents of the agreement, who use terror and murder to harm the process in order to paralyze it. I believe that as a result of the discussions, the secretary of state will probably visit the region in the first half of December to find ways to return those Arabs states, who in the wake of the Declaration of Principles agreement have remained outside the framework, to the negotiating process.

I took the opportunity to raise our defense requirements with the President, the secretary of state, the secretary of defense, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and Pentagon officials. My requests were focused on the following subjects: One, to assure the level of military and civilian aid for 1995 onwards. Two, to assure the implementation of the President's commitment to maintain the qualitative superiority of the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] and the State of Israel. Important promises were made to me on types of advanced aircraft, supercomputers, and other areas, but now is not the time

to go into detail. Three, assisted by legislation from Congress and the administration's affirmative attitude, to receive additional arms from the drawdown of U.S. forces. I believe that in the coming two years, we will receive, almost without payment, some 50 F-16A's, as well as other equipment. These are in addition to other commitments for 1994, which date from my previous visit. I believe there is a readiness to assist us since there has been a cut in the U.S. defense budget and a reduction in forces. Weapons for which only a few years ago we paid very large amounts are now available, and I believe they will be handed over to us almost free. The fourth point is also linked to security: To assure continued cooperation on the Arrow antiballistic missile project.

The President and I also discussed an idea he raised: the setting up of a supreme U.S.-Israeli council on research and development in civilian matters. I believe that when Commerce Secretary Ron Brown comes here in January we will be able to work out practical agreements in those fields.

I also met with committees from the Senate and House of Representatives. The meetings were held a day before the NAFTA vote, and still, I must say that the most important people in the legislation involving us—particularly in the Senate, but also in the House—came to the meetings. I believe that if legislation is required in order to achieve the above targets, then there is a real willingness to act.

I met with leaders of the U.S. Jewish community—the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, Israel Bonds, the United Jewish Appeal—and I participated in the General Assembly of the Council of Jewish Organizations, which took place in Montreal and was attended by some 3,600 Jewish leaders from all over North America.

I also paid a short official visit to Canada and met with the new prime minister, who told me he was happy that the Israeli prime minister was the first to visit him following his recent election. I also met with the foreign, defense, and justice ministers. I found a real readiness to reassess the entire range of Israeli-Canadian relations. I found a readiness to reassess relations, which have not always been favorable to us, especially in trade and defense. I believe that there will be more openness in relations between the two states. We must remember that the prime minister has been in office for only two or three weeks.

There were also meetings with people I already knew, such as President Nixon, with whom I met yesterday for a long discussion. I talked on the telephone with former Secretary of State James Baker. President Bush was not in the United States, therefore I could not talk with him. I think we should maintain friendly ties with all those who influence U.S. public opinion, and primarily with the President, the administration, and Congress.

In general, the visit—which was a bit long—was important for a better understanding of the political process, concerning both events taking place and those not taking place, and in strengthening Israel's security situation.

[Hayim Hecht] Good day, sir. We are being relayed live on Qol Yisra'el. You have returned to quite a sizzling domestic arena. Tomorrow the coalition, which is only 56 strong, will have to fend off a no-confidence motion. Will the state of the coalition affect the progress of the peace process, particularly the Syrian track?

[Rabin] First of all, the government has a majority to implement its policy. I am referring to a Knesset majority. It comes as no surprise that the implementation of the agreement of principles, which was drawn up in very general terms, was causing disagreements, misunderstandings, and clashes of interests. Naturally it was not a peace agreement nor even a detailed agreement about the establishment of an interim arrangement. As the title of the document indicates, it was an agreement of principles, and things get more sticky when one tries to implement these principles. It was therefore to be expected that we should experience ups and downs, even mini-crises. There is still a rather difficult stretch of road ahead of us before the agreement of principles is implemented.

I hope we will be able to skip the phase of the agreement of principles in our future negotiations with the other partners, particularly since the goal of our negotiations with three Arab countries—Syria, Jordan, and Lebanon—is a peace treaty, not an interim arrangement. Peace treaties are detailed and contain clear agreements. They are not declarations of principles.

[Tel Aviv IDF Radio's Udi Segal] Mr. Prime Minister, the moment you exit the airport, you will encounter a demonstration by a group of Judaea and Samaria settlers. Now that you are back home, will you issue orders that the settlers who stage demonstrations, riot, and attack innocent Arabs in the territories, be handled with more toughness?

[Rabin] Demonstrations are a legitimate expression in a democratic regime, while rioting and attacks on Arabs just because they are Arabs.... [pauses] The Army has and will have orders on how to deal with them in accordance with the law. I do not think new orders are warranted.

[Israel Television Channel 1's Gadi Sukenik] Sir, the secretary of state will arrive in a few days, mainly in a bid to unfreeze the negotiations with Syria. What step or declaration do you expect the Syrian president to make to enable a breakthrough on that track?

[Rabin] The secretary of state's visit will not be for one purpose only. He will meet with every party connected with the negotiations: the Palestinians, Jordanians, Syrians, the.... [pauses] I do not know whether Lebanon will or will not be on the list this time. I do not know whether he will visit Egypt; his itinerary has not been finalized yet and I do not think, therefore, that I should comment on it.

I expect the Syrians to engage in businesslike negotiations, including quiet tracks. After we signed an agreement of principles with the Palestinians, big teams arrived in Taba and everything was done in the media limelight and in front of microphones. This did nothing for the negotiations, which was why we changed the format of talks. They are now held in smaller forums in a location which is less accessible to the media. In this way we can—I hope we can—attain better results. I think this method of holding quiet contacts toward agreements and their public finalization only once they are ready to be finalized.... [pauses] Right now, there is nothing—with the exception of the agreement of principles with the Palestinians—close to being made publicly final with any country. That includes Jordan.

[Correspondent] Mr. Prime Minister, [words indistinct], the negotiations will make no progress unless Israel makes a written pledge to release 10,000 security prisoners. Can you comment?

[Rabin] What are you referring to?

[Correspondent] [Words indistinct] said the negotiations will make no progress unless Israel makes a written pledge to release Palestinian detainees. Can you comment?

[Rabin] I have never accepted and will not accept preconditions for negotiations. Any issue within the perimeters of the agreement of the declaration of principles can be raised at the negotiations; we are entitled to raise anything we deem fit at the negotiations, and they are equally entitled to raise various issues, including this one. We will not accept preconditions beyond those on which we agreed in the declaration of principles.

[Israel Television Channel 1's Shlomo Ganor] Mr. Prime Minister, do the promises of aid and support which you received in the United States allow Israel to take on additional risks?

[Rabin] I think we have guaranteed that aid will continue. I remember that only a few months ago, various so-called American experts said that since foreign aid was an unpopular issue, its scope and distribution were in danger. We must not forget that we have an agreement with the United States under which we annually transfer—in fact, they transfer—$475 million out of $1.8 billion in accordance with the offshore procurement [preceding two words in English] bill, which means U.S. Government procurement on behalf of the IDF. Today this means employment to the tune of about $0.5 billion for the defense industries that will not come from the Israeli taxpayer's money.

We saw it as a great achievement when it was made in 1989, and given the defense industries' present state, I do not know in what dire straits they would be without it today. I believe the United States understands Israel's need for military aid, and it is looking for ways to ease the situation through what is called drawdown [preceding word in English] in legal terminology and through other kinds of equipment storage in Israel, making things easier for Israel's defense budget.

U.S. Reportedly To Aid in Implementing PLO Agreement

TA2111115593 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 21 Nov 93 p 4

[Report by Natan Gutman in the United States, Esti Perez, and Yig'al Qotzer]

[Excerpt] The United States is willing to help the Israeli-PLO talks on the implementation of the agreement of principles, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin was told during his discussions with the U.S. Administration.

Israeli sources have reported that Rabin was surprised by the fact that the United States is willing to play an active role in implementing the Israeli-Palestinian agreement despite the fact that it was not party to its formation. Secretary of State Warren Christopher will be in the Middle East on 13 December, the date the agreement is to go into effect, and will deal with bridging any gaps that might still remain between the Israeli and the PLO stands. The United States provided no further clarifications regarding the way it views its contribution to the success of the talks. [passage omitted]

Lubrani: No IDF Redeployment Until Hizballah Disarmed

TA2111154193 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1500 GMT 21 Nov 93

[Text] Uri Lubrani, coordinator of government activities in South Lebanon, said Israel will not redeploy in South Lebanon before Hizballah and other terrorist organizations are disarmed. Lubrani made the remarks to Yo'av Aviv, our correspondent in the north, on the occasion of Lebanon's Jubilee Anniversary. The occasion was marked by holding a toast at the Voice of the South radio station with the participation of SLA [South Lebanese Army] commander General Antoine Lahd.

Artillery Batteries Said Reinforced in S. Lebanon

TA2111120693 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 21 Nov 93 p 1

[Report by Shim'on Weiss and ITIM]

[Excerpt] Yesterday, Israel reinforced its artillery batteries in the security zone in south Lebanon, for the first time in four months. This was reported by a source associated with the SLA [South Lebanese Army].

Six batteries of 155 mm cannons were moved from Israeli territory and placed in the Israeli base at al-Majidiyah, in the eastern sector of the security zone, the source added.

No explanation was given for this move, but it is apparently linked with the Hizballah attack and the captivity of 12 SLA soldiers on 16 November. [passage omitted]

Troops Said Starting To Pull Out of Gaza City Base

NC2111104693 Paris AFP in English 1014 GMT 21 Nov 93

[Text] Gaza City, Occupied Gaza Strip, Nov 21 (AFP)—The Israeli army began to pull out of the largest military base in Gaza City overnight, a correspondent reported Sunday [21 November].

Parts of the sprawling "Seafront" camp, which also houses a border guard post and a jail holding 240 Palestinians, were deserted open space on Sunday.

People living nearby in the well-off al-Rimal district said military equipment was taken out of the site throughout the night.

But it was not known if the equipment was taken out of the strip or simply shifted to other Gaza bases.

Trucks also left a smaller army post in Gaza City's Shaykh Radwan district last week, the correspondent said.

"At about half-past ten I heard a lot of noise," said Umm-Sami, whose apartment overlooks the base.

"I opened my window and I saw troop transporters, half-tracks and lorries leaving the base," she told AFP.

A correspondent saw fewer than a dozen army tents still in the camp compared with about 50 last week.

An army spokesman refused to comment on the report but suggested the government had ordered the move.

"We have no reaction on this issue, it is political," he said.

Under the September 13 Palestinian autonomy agreement the army has four months to withdraw from the Gaza Strip and the West Bank town of Jericho, starting from December 13.

Gaza City also houses the headquarters of the military administration of the strip and a separate army headquarters as well as Gaza central jail.

Spokesman Denies AFP Report on Pullout

TA2111112593 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1100 GMT 21 Nov 93

[Text] Military sources say a report stating the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] has started evacuating the Hof [Seaside] base in Gaza is totally untrue. The source of this report is an AFP correspondent who spoke with Gaza residents who told him the IDF started evacuating this base last night. This base is manned by IDF and Border Police personnel, and also includes a prison in which 250 detainees are incarcerated. The IDF spokesman told our correspondent Gil Litman that the IDF generally refrains from giving details regarding its movements to the media.

Army Calls Up Reservists for December Gaza Withdrawal

NC2211071993 Paris AFP in English 0700 GMT 22 Nov 93

[Text] Jerusalem, Nov 22 (AFP)—Reserve army units who will dismantle Israeli military installations on the Gaza Strip and in the West Bank town of Jericho have been called up for the end of December, military sources said Monday [22 November].

The withdrawal is due to start December 13 and last four months under the Palestinian autonomy deal.

The units will also have the job of preparing new bases to house the troops pulled out of the strip, which Israel seized in the 1967 Middle East war.

A plan is being worked out to detail which roads and equipment will be used for the withdrawal, the sources said.

Some of the bases could be handed over to the new Palestinian authorities and others destroyed.

The operation will be launched once agreement is reached at talks in Egypt to implement the September 13 autonomy accord.

An Israeli proposal to keep troops on the Gaza Strip after December 13 caused a brief breakdown in the talks but the two sides are now heading for a compromise under which soldiers will guard the 4,000 Jewish settlers who live in Gaza.

The army pulled some soldiers and equipment out of the largest military base in Gaza City, overnight Saturday-Sunday.

People living near the "Seafront" camp saw troops and equipment leaving throughout the night and part of the site, which also includes a border guard post and a jail holding 240 Palestinians, was deserted open space on Sunday.

Sarid Says West Bank To Remain Demilitarized

TA2111122993 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1200 GMT 21 Nov 93

[Text] Minister Yosi Sarid says he knows for certain that the West Bank will always remain demilitarized and will provide Israel with strategic depth and warning space. Our correspondent Shulamit Schmerling reports that during a meeting with Jordan Valley settlers in the settlement of Shadmot Mehola this morning, Minister Sarid admitted that at this point he cannot tell them in clear terms what will be the future of the Jordan Valley.

He said that this depends on many elements that could change, mainly Israel's security needs. According to Minister Sarid in the framework of the permanent arrangement, some settlements will be relocated, others will remain under foreign sovereignty, while the future of some will have to be negotiated.

Shahal on 15,000 Member Palestinian Police Force

TA2011152793 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1100 GMT 20 Nov 93

[Report on interview with Police Minister Moshe Shahal by David Essing; place and date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Essing] Just back from a trip to Cairo where he met with President Mubarak, Energy and Police Minister Moshe Shahal has revealed some new facts and figures about the Palestinian police force that will move into the Gaza Strip and Jericho shortly. In this interview, Shahal says he believes the Palestinian police force, working together with Israeli policemen, will provide adequate security for all residents of the territories.

[Shahal] Well, I am certain about it. The plan that I presented to the prime minister some four months is placing security and patrolling of the highways in the hands of the police, including the Border Police. I think that the border guards and the police forces are the adequate security forces that can maintain law and order and bring security between the Palestinians and the Israeli citizens. It should be a strong police force. We would like to have some thousands of maybe soldiers, who will be included in this police force. They will have special training, and I certainly believe this is the optimum of the security that will be needed. It is a civilian thing, and the police are more adequate to deal with those problems than the military or the soldiers.

[Essing] Will these Israeli policemen or border policemen be working in cooperation or joint patrols with the Palestinian police force?

[Shahal] In some events yes. There will be a level of cooperation. There will be a need for cooperation, but they can also fulfill their duties independently. This is going to replace the need for a day-to-day involvement of the military forces where there is something that ordinarily should be done by the police. Like in the State of Israel, the police forces are responsible for the security of all of the citizens in this country and they are doing it, I think, in a very good way. So, I do not see why they cannot do the same in the West Bank and Gaza.

[Essing] What about Israeli residents, sir? Will they be allowed to carry automatic weapons or weapons of any type, the way they are today?

[Shahal] Well, they would be like any other Israeli citizen. They will need a permit to carry guns, and that will be under the control of the authorities. I think that in that way we are going to civilianize the process itself and to have something ordinary. I am certain that it will work fine with the Israeli settlers.

[Essing] Do you have any idea, sir, when the Palestinian policemen will actually start moving in and taking up their duties?

[Shahal] They have to on 13 April. I think that it will be advisable to have some of them in the area itself before that time so there will be a period of time to give them the places, to have this period of time for the two forces—the security forces of Israel, the police force of Israel, and the Palestinian police—to study the problems and to have an orderly manner of withdrawal.

[Essing] The Palestinians have been speaking of a force from 20,000 to 30,000 men. Any decision yet on just how big the Palestinian police force will be?

[Shahal] No, they are talking about not such a big number. They are talking today about around 15,000 all in all, which is more realistic. Do not forget that there is a need to pay for the salaries and the cost of a big police force, and they cannot certainly just throw numbers. I think that the numbers that they declared at the beginning were not based on professional study.

[Essing] But the 15,000, as you say, is more realistic. It is something that Israel could live with.

[Shahal] Yes, . . .ink so. I think that the standards or the number should be based on the same numbers that we have today: about four police officers for 1,000 citizens, and that should be adequate. We are having even less and we are doing a lot of work including the traditional police work and other duties which is included only in the Israeli police force.

[Essing] The agreement with the Palestinians speaks about, I quote, a strong police force. What kind of armament will they have? Will they have the usual weapons of a normal police force or will they be given more equipment, personnel carriers, that kind of thing, in order to deal with, perhaps, terrorists who will not submit?

[Shahal] Basically, in principle, they will have the same arms that are being used by the Israeli police force. They want to have some armored vehicles, which, I would say, is not a major problem. But basically, they will have light arms and automatic weapons.

Leaders Instruct Settlers To Disobey Palestinian Police

TA2111121193 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1100 GMT 21 Nov 93

[Text] Leaders of Jewish settlements in the territories say they have instructed Jewish residents to disobey orders from Palestinian policemen, who are due to begin operating in Gaza and Jericho next month. Speaking at a news conference in Jerusalem this morning, the settlers

also announced the launch of a campaign to bring tens of thousands of Israelis to see the settlements at first hand. Mark Weiss reports:

[Begin recording] [Weiss] The Council of Jewish Communities in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza have instructed settlers to ignore any orders by members of the new Palestinian police force, who are due to begin operating in Jericho and Gaza next month. Council Chairman Yisra'el Har'el:

[Har'el] They don't have any capacity on us, they can't rule us. Even a ticket we won't accept from them. They are an enemy, they belong to the Liberation Army of Palestine. In other words, they are soldiers that are uniformed with the police uniforms, and we understand that they will do one shift as a policeman and another shift as a gunman, as a terrorist.

[Weiss] Har'el warned that the settlers will respond speedily and effectively toward what he termed any atrocities committed by the Palestinian police. Settler leaders denied that the security situation has improved since the signing of the Israel-PLO accord. Before the signing, there were one or two serious terrorist incidents a month, and since the agreement, there has been an average of one or two serious incidents a week.

The settlers are promising a continuation of the campaign of militant direct action against the autonomy agreement. Demonstrations will be held every Thursday opposite the Labor party headquarters in Tel Aviv and protests will be organized outside the homes of all ministers. Every Likud branch in Israel and Jewish communities abroad will be asked to adopt a settlement in the territories. In addition, a new campaign is being launched called: I have a brother in YESHA', the Hebrew acronym for Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza. The plan is to bus tens of thousands of Israelis to the settlements to see for themselves and to meet with the Jewish residents.

According to the settlers, more than 14,000 people have moved to the settlements since the Labor-led government took office, and settlers will continue to occupy homes they claim have been legally purchased, but have not been released by the Housing Ministry. The settlers produced the results of a public opinion survey showing that almost 52 percent of Jewish Israelis believe that Israel should cancel the agreement with the PLO if terror attacks continue. Almost 67 percent believe it is a mistake to release Palestinian prisoners. [end recording]

Government 'Weakness' in Handling Settlers Criticized

TA2011093593 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0900 GMT 20 Nov 93

[Text] Minister Yosi Sarid has said that he would raise the issue of the government's handling of what he described as hooligans from among the settlers, especially from Qiryat Arba' and Hebron, at the cabinet session on 22 November, after Prime Minister Rabin returns from abroad. Sarid said he would demand that the government instruct the Army and the police not to merely submit complaints that never got to court, but to start arresting people Sarid described as notorious characters who have been harassing the Arab residents and damaging their property for years.

Minister Sarid accused the government of having demonstrated weakness and ineptitude on this issue up till now. He asserted that if the government failed to stop the hooligans then they would eventually stop the government. Sarid added that judging by the recurrent rioting in Hebron and other places in Judaea and Samaria, one could receive the impression that the government was led by the Likud, and not by the Labor party and Meretz. Minister Sarid was speaking to our correspondent Shulamit Schmerling.

IDF Document Warns of Civil Revolt Over PLO Accord

TA1911211293 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 19 Nov 93 p A1

[Report by military correspondent Eytan Rabin]

[Text] An internal IDF [Israel Defense Forces] document foresees "bloodletting between Jews," expressions of civil revolt, and IDF soldiers refusing to obey orders, in the wake of the Declaration of Principles agreement signed between Israel and the PLO. The official document, issued by the Chief Education Officer and the head of the Gadna' paramilitary youth organization, deals with the "educational and informational significance" of the IDF's deployment in the wake of the agreement with the PLO. Major General Amnon Shahaq, deputy chief of staff, instructed a team of experts to present recommendations for IDF information and education policy on the matter. The document was put together by Major Ya'aqov Qastel. The team included Professor Asa Kasher, Dr. Avi Ravitsky, Dr. Hanan Kristal, and Yohanan Ben-Ya'aqov.

The team believes that "the dispute (over the agreement) can be expected to continue and worsen in the foreseeable future." It notes that "decisionmaking in the ideological field will lead to a deep social crisis." In the wake of that there will be calls to disobey orders, civil revolt, and even the use of force to oppose the implementation of decisions. In a situation in which units and groups will find themselves in a face-to-face clash between the democratic majority and Zionism, as they understand it, this might provide them with justification for changing the rules and breaking the law, which could lead even to bloodletting."

A different section of the document says that the phenomena of senior officers in the reserves, on both sides of the political spectrum, making use of their military record to advance their political outlooks will become more widespread. "That means they will make use of their military record in order to gain public support and

to delegitimize government actions and decisions, while presenting the decisionmaking echelon as abandoning national security. The possibility that soldiers might be called on not to obey orders cannot be ruled out," the document says.

Further on IDF Civil Revolt Document

TA2011115993 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 19 Nov 93 p B2

[Report by Eytan Rabin on an "internal document" prepared by the IDF Education Department—all punctuation as published]

[Text] "The soldiers in the territories are confused," a military source told HA'ARETZ, when commenting on the document whose main points will be published below. "This agreement (with the PLO) took the soldiers totally by surprise, after six years of intifadah. Now they have to be told that the Palestinians are our friends and this is difficult," the source said.

Following the dramatic turnabout in Israel's relations with the Palestinians, it was decided at the headquarters of the Education Corps and the Gadna' paramilitary youth organization to conduct an initial analysis of the educational and informational ramifications of the new situation, as well as recommending which steps should be taken and preparing an information policy.

The analysis and recommendations appear in an internal document (dated 5 September.) The paper warns of the danger of violence and increasing social polarization in view of a possible withdrawal from the West Bank, the Gaza Strip, and the Golan Heights, and considers the possible ramifications these developments may have on the degree of obedience within the Army.

The document was prepared by Major Ya'aqov Qastel, as part of staff work currently being conducted by the IDF's [Israel Defense Forces] Education Department. A team of experts on information policy including Professors Asa Kasher and Avi Ravitsky, Dr. Hanan Kristal, Yohanan Ben-Ya'aqov, Nisim Salomon, Moshe Ronen participated in formulating the document with officers from the IDF's Education and Information Section.

The emerging arrangement between the PLO and the State of Israel provides the possibility of a historic compromise in the inter communal feud between the Palestinians and the Jews. This feud has constituted the core of the Arab-Israeli conflict. This arrangement may have a far reaching significance, which may overturn our basic conceptions and perceptions of reality, and may even necessitate a complete reexamination of the way we have become accustomed to seeing things.

Such a radical shift (similar to a traumatic event in many ways) has numerous psychological, consciousness-related, educational, and informational ramifications which may greatly affect the functioning and behavior of our soldiers.

(...) In light of the existence of hardcore groups with a high level of ideological commitment and readiness to undertake militant activity, there is room to assess that the democratic rules of decisionmaking in controversial situations, and the supremacy of the law, will again be tested. The nature of the decisions facing the Israeli public is tightly linked to the long-standing political and ideological divide over the limits of Zionism's realization and the goals and ideals of contemporary Zionism.

Reaching a final decision on these issues would lead to a deep crisis in the sense of Zionist fulfillment of certain social groups. As a result, there will be an increase in the number of calls for a rejection of government authority, popular revolt, and even for forcible opposition to the implementation of government decisions. The State of Israel is a democratic country with a collective ideology: Zionism (...) the implementation of which is regarded as the state's raison d'etre. Individuals or groups who find themselves witnessing a direct confrontation between the will of a democratic majority and their own perception of Zionist ideals, may feel that the situation has granted them a legitimate right to disregard rules and violate the law, even to the point of physical violence.

Exacerbating statements seeking mainly to delegitimize government decisions and actions, has abruptly plunged the IDF, as the executor of government decisions, into the heart of the controversy. In our assessment, there is a real danger of blurring the distinction between the legitimacy of the argument over government decisions and the need to maintain the consensus surrounding the legitimacy of the IDF's actions. Against this background there may be calls and appeals to soldiers, from elements outside the Army, not to obey orders stemming from the agreement with the Palestinians. These elements may even claim that such orders are manifestly illegal. There will be more and more statements portraying senior army commanders as politically motivated individuals and not as the representatives and defenders of national security. The phenomenon of retired army officers, from both sides of the political fence, making use of their military records and reputations in order to trumpet their political views, will only grow. This phenomenon—the politicization of the security issue—will become increasingly geared to the exploitation of one's military record to either recruit public support for agreements or to delegitimize the government's actions and decisions, while presenting the political echelon as having abandoned national security. One cannot rule out the possibility of calls for military insubordination in certain situations.

In the course of the negotiations, (and even during the interim period until the permanent arrangement) one cannot rule out the possibility of confrontations and direct clashes between various groups from among the Jewish population in the areas of Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip, whether against the background of rioting by the settlers or as a result of government decisions.

In a small, open society such as Israel, with its powerful media, it is impossible and also inadvisable to isolate the troops from the intense civil debate. The soldier's need to formulate a position, to follow the public debate, while constantly examining his own position, stems from his civic and democratic responsibilities (a commitment which also serves as a source of power for the military). This need is constantly in conflict with the necessity to neutralize any possible effect this argument may have on the soldier's performance of duty or on the way he carries out his orders.

(...) Since the IDF is a reflection, to some extent, of Israeli society, one can assume with certainty that as the argument within society intensifies, the probability of a parallel argument among the soldiers. If this argument ensues in the absence of adequate control, it could have a corrosive effect on intra-unit solidarity and on the soldiers ability to work together.

Therefore, a discussion of this issues under controlled conditions is in the system's interest, and would also enable the soldiers to express their positions and feelings, while granting legitimacy to a wide spectrum of positions. At the same time, this would serve to clearly delineate the line separating freedom of opinion and the soldiers' duty to carry out their missions and orders to the best of their ability without any connection or linkage to political stands (...)

The enemy's identity has changed: some of yesterday's enemies have suddenly become potential allies against a common foe (the rejectionist organizations, Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], and the Islamic Jihad). As for the Jewish population in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip: there is a possibility of physical confrontation with parts of the Jewish population in the territories, together with the duty to defend their security while exhibiting deep understanding for their concerns. Things will become more complex and more ambivalent: terrorist activity by opponents of the agreement among the Arab population will continue. Various circles in the Jewish population may also attack Arab residents, either in retaliation or out of a desire to create a provocation and exacerbate matters, hoping to torpedo the continuing process. The reality of impending peace, on the one hand, together with a continuing (and perhaps even increasing) need to confront various manifestations of terrorism—when the enemy's image is changing and there is also a growing possibility of physical confrontation with Jewish civilians on the other—magnify the complexity and ambivalence of the conditions under which the Army will operate in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip.

(...) A wide-ranging information campaign will be held which will assist the Army command to imbue the soldiers (from top ranks down) with the meaning of the new situation for Army deployment, the missions imposed on it, and the accompanying orders. It will stress that an efficient information campaign depends on ongoing communications between the Education Corps and decisionmakers, and in providing information in "real time." The Education Corps, through its representatives in the various commands and its activities among the soldiers, will remain abreast of the mood of the soldiers. It will carry out a proper survey of soldiers' positions in order to be aware of feelings, moods, and points of hardship among soldiers (especially in combat units) and raise these issues with higher echelons (the assistant chief of staff for the intifadah, the military judge advocate, and others) in order to provide adequate and speedy answers.

In the immediate future, the task will be to transmit speedy, reliable, and precise information on what is happening and on operational decisions for the Army. In the intermediate and long run, it will be to develop a new basic information campaign for the IDF for the period leading up to peace (the path to be taken, the expectations, the chances and risks it raises for Israel, the mental upheaval required, and its ramifications on important fields in our military and civilians lives). During the entire operation, continuous information will be required, which will accompany the negotiating process, its ups and downs.

(...) A contingency plan for the possibility of a settlement with Syria and a withdrawal from the Golan Heights—for the most difficult scenarios possible in Israeli society (physical violence and bloodletting).

Organizational recommendations: Institutionalizing a permanent top-level steering forum in the relevant fields. The forum will be an advisory body for working out strategies and areas which have to be explained in view of events and on the basis of accrued information on moods and problems among soldiers (an existing body will expanded and institutionalized).

The political process—chief planks to be explained: The arrangement being worked out between Israel and the PLO makes possible a historic compromise in the intercommunal conflict between us and the Palestinians, which is the core of the Israeli-Arab conflict. A historic turning point in the process of the Arab world accepting (de facto and de jeure) the existence of the State of Israel in the Middle East arena. Returning the center of gravity of the conflict to the national political level and reducing the danger of converting it into an interreligious problem (between Judaism and Islam).

The basic security mission and the military service setup will not be changed. There is a need to maintain and strengthen Israel's military might, even if there are peace arrangements. They have not been reduced and have even increased to some extent. There is a need to provide backing for peace arrangements and reduce the dangers involved in them. There is an ongoing struggle against those who reject the arrangements (the Rejectionist Front, Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], and Islamic Jihad). The peace arrangements do not mean an

end to the era of threats to Israel's existence and (potential) military threats—from Iran, Islamic fundamentalism, rearmament by Syria and other Arab states. The heartfelt wishes, rather than "realpolitik," among large sections of the Arab world—who regard Israel as a passing historic phenomenon (like the Crusaders)—will not easily die. The Middle East has many elements of instability and radicalism (besides the Israeli-Arab conflict), which under certain circumstances could be turned against us.

The essence of the decision: What is on the scales? The decisions Israeli society is facing are closely linked to the old political dispute over Zionism's borders, the national aims, and the meaning of Zionism for this generation. Decisionmaking in such vital fields means in many cases the collapse of the dream and the Zionist ideals of groups in society. That is why the dispute is so intense and deep, but legitimate (a dispute inside the Zionist family). If we are not careful to uphold the rules of the game and agree over the way decisions are made, the dispute could harm the very foundations on which Israeli society is based.

Democracy and the rule of law is a vital condition for Israeli society's continued existence. Only rigid maintenance of agreed upon rules of handling the public debate and decisionmaking by the majority (...) will assure the unity and solidarity required for the continued existence of society the day after these decisions are made.

The issuing of orders in times when society is put to the test: In the past Israeli democracy has known situations of sharp conflict between decisions made by the majority and those with a different ideological-political outlook (the evacuation of Yamit, the Lebanon war). Society and the Army withstood the test without their stable foundations being undermined.

Extraparliamentary politics—the right of protest and its limitations: It is legitimate in a democratic country to express a position, protest, and attempt to influence public opinion and decisionmaking in this way. Alongside the positive aspect (active involvement by civilians in a democratic state between general elections) there must be restrictions: Actions must be within the law. These limitations require and call for the continued regular functioning of the ruling authorities elected in a proper democratic process.

The IDF is the people's army—subservient to the elected government. Freedom of opinion and belief are basic freedoms enjoyed by each soldier, as he is a citizen of the State of Israel. Since the IDF is a people's army, the range of political positions among the soldiers will reflect in one way or another the spectrum of positions held by the public. Nevertheless, the IDF is an instrument for implementing decisions by the elected government, as defined in the Basic Law: The Army (1976), which is that it is subservient to the government.

It must be stressed to the soldiers that it is their duty to carry out to the best of their abilities the missions and orders (in the spirit and the letter) imposed by the Army without any ties to the soldiers' political positions. It is written: Within the framework of his military service, a soldier will not bring his personal views on issues outside his field of authority, responsibilities, and profession, into his military activities, especially not his personal views on controversial civilian issues which have a political, social, or ideological character.

The limitations on the duty to maintain discipline: It must be made clear to the soldiers the types of allegedly illegal orders so that their irrelevance to issues in public, ideological, and political dispute are obvious to him.

The difference between legal and political legitimacy: The public debate over the political and ideological legitimacy of government decisions is permitted in a democratic state and each person has the right to take any stand he wishes. On the other hand, only a court can decide that a certain decision is legally illegitimate. If a court has not overruled a government decision it means that each soldier must act according to it, within the regular military framework, just as he swears when he is recruited to remain loyal to the State of Israel, its laws, and its authorized institutions.

Egypt To Lift All Travel Limitations to Israel

TA2011061893 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 20 Nov 93

[Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres says that Egypt has decided to lift all limitations on visits by its citizens to Israel. Speaking in Petah Tiqva at a meeting of the Israeli-Egyptian Friendship Society, Peres said that he is not aware of any disagreement with Prime Minister Rabin over the date of implementing the agreement with the Palestinians.

On the issue of negotiations with Syria, the foreign minister said a date for the resumption of talks would not be known until U.S. Secretary of State Christopher visits the region.

Jordanian Businessmen Meet Ministry Director

TA2111185893 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1700 GMT 21 Nov 93

[Text] A group of Jordanian businessmen this afternoon met with Tourism Ministry Director General Eli Gonen in his office in Jerusalem. Our correspondent 'Ofra Nehmad reports that the meeting dealt with the establishment of an airline route between Jerusalem, Amman, Mecca and Ben-Gurion Airport which is later to continue on to Saudi Arabia and Qatar.

The guests inquired about the possibility of building a hotel in East Jerusalem and launching joint projects in al-'Aqabah and Elat. They announced that they will soon organize a visit by a larger group of Jordanian businessmen to Israel.

King Returns From Damascus; al-Asad Talks Viewed

Al-Majali on Husayn-al-Asad Talks

JN2111210593 Amman Jordan Television Network in English 2000 GMT 21 Nov 93

[From the "News AT Ten"]

[Excerpts] His majesty the king returned to Amman this evening after a short working visit to Damascus and talks with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad. [passage omitted]

Returning with his majesty to Amman was an official delegation which included the prime minister, the chief of the Royal Court, and his majesty's political adviser.

Prime Minister 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali said Jordan and Syria agreed to uphold the comprehensiveness of peace in the region and that separate agreements with Israel would not help establish a lasting peace. [Jordan Television Correspondent] Maha al-Sha'ir asked the prime minister on his majesty's talks in Damascus:

[Begin recording] [Al-Majali] Well, it is always brotherly visits between his majesty the king and President Hafiz al-Asad, which has been repeatedly now and again to exchange views and information about what's going on on the scene, especially in the peace process altogether. And it was very fruitful, and very good and very open, and in a very brotherly way. And one can always look at it that the future will be brighter once our leaders get together always and have the same vision about what is going on in the area altogether.

[Al-Sha'ir] Will it in any way affect peace process?

[Al-Majali] I hope for the good not ... [changes thought] Just for the good of the process this thing is always a must, and both of us, both his majesty and the president, see that peace has to be a comprehensive, and not an individual peace with any given country at all. It is not useful to the whole area; it has to be between everybody and Israel, not to single out one country apart from the others, because this will not be a comprehensive and it will not be lasting. [end recording]

Abu-Nuwar Views King's Efforts

JN2111173393 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1615 GMT 21 Nov 93

[Text] Jordanian Information Minister Ma'n Abu-Nuwar has said in Amman that His Majesty King Husayn's current visit to Syria and the talks he will hold with President Hafiz al-Asad will definitely be in the Arab nation's interest, and will also lead to the welfare of both the nation and its future on various levels.

In a statement to the SANA [Syrian Arab News Agency] correspondent in Amman, Abu-Nuwar added that the relations between Jordan and Syria are fraternal and cordial ones and proceed from good to better, and that bilateral coordination is at its best.

Concluding his statement, the Jordanian information minister said: The efforts exerted by His Majesty King Husayn and President Hafiz al-Asad will yield good fruit, and will be positively reflected on their countries and the Arab nation both at present and in the future.

AL-RA'Y on King's Damascus Visit

JN2211095693 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 22 Nov 93 pp 1, 21

[Editorial: "Damascus Meeting"]

[Text] If real coordination among Arab brothers is needed at all times, then coordination at this particular stage is a national and pan-Arab necessity that is as noble as the objectives to which we aspire. Such coordination would overcome all reasons for disagreement.

His Majesty King Husayn's visit to Damascus yesterday, and his talks with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad are an example of such coordination, which should be given priority. They also emphasize the two Arab leaders' acknowledgment of the seriousness of this stage, and the importance of clearly and courageously facing facts. We in the Arab world have suffered much as a result of the huge loopholes in the Arab political, economic, military, and media action. The enemies have penetrated, and are still penetrating, these loopholes to serve their hostile designs that do not exclude any Arab country or people.

When Amman and Damascus agree on the importance of adopting a unified Arab position that supports the peace process, and when they stress that this peace must be based on the restoration of full Arab rights, and when the two sides say that the aspired peace is a just and comprehensive peace that future generations will accept and protect, they do so because they believe that the national interest in achieving peace can never be an alternative to the pan-Arab interest. They also believe that if the settlement is not comprehensive, it will single out the Arabs one by one in a way that will realize for our enemies the political, economic, military, and psychological hegemony they seek. This situation will lead to the usurpation of rights, will, and dignity.

We view the Husayn-al-Asad meeting from its pan-Arab perspective, since Amman has no interest in a peace that does not include all Arab countries, and Damascus has no interest in a settlement whose fruits are not for the benefit of the entire nation. Therefore, the Damascus meeting yesterday emphasizes the eagerness of the Jordanians and Syrians to achieve a just and honorable peace that restores rights to their owners and that is based on international legitimacy and all its principles, resolutions, and values, not on the Zionist designs and antagonist desire for hegemony over our entire homeland.

King Phones Mubarak, Discusses Latest Developments

JN2211084293 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 22 Nov 93 p 1

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn Sunday [21 November] telephoned Egyptian President Husni Mubarak and exchanged views with him on regional and international issues and the latest developments in the peace process, the Jordan news agency, Petra, said. It did not give details.

'Official' Source: Israeli Contacts Yield No Agreement

JN1911205393 Amman AKHBAR AL-USBU' in Arabic 18 Nov 93 pp 1, 10

[Text] U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher is due in Amman early next month as part of his second tour of the region. Christopher will seek to break the deadlock in the peace process, which is facing great difficulties on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks.

An official Jordanian source in Amman told AKHBAR AL-USBU' that Jordan warmly welcomes the return of the U.S. secretary to the region. The source noted, however, that Jordan has nothing new to offer to the U.S. official, because Israel has to offer something this time in return for everything the Arabs have done.

The source added that Jordan will tell the U.S. delegate that it will not sign a peace treaty with Israel before Syria and Lebanon do so, and that Jordan will be the last to sign, out of its eagerness to coordinate its activities with its Arab brothers.

The source asserted that the U.S. Administration knows Jordan's position very well. Jordan has communicated its position to the Americans through several channels, the last of which was Dennis Ross, whose temptations—even to write off Jordan's debt—failed to persuade Jordan to sign a peace treaty with Israel.

The source went on: Jordan has made contacts with the Israelis. These contacts, however, did not yield any agreement. The two sides agreed to continue talks under the sponsorship of the United States and Russia.

The Jordanian source affirmed, moreover, that Jordan challenges anyone to produce evidence that it has signed any agreement with Israel or agreed to sign such an agreement, except for the common agenda, which is a framework to organize the negotiations and is not considered an agreement on anything. The agenda is only an agreement on points to be discussed in the future.

The source added that His Majesty King Husayn has repeatedly said that Jordan favors a just and comprehensive solution and will not reverse its decision, whatever the outside pressure.

Information Minister Rejects Separate Peace With Israel

JN1911210493 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 19 Nov 93

[Text] Information Minister Dr. Ma'n Abu-Nuwar has lauded Qatar's policy on Arab reconciliation and its efforts to achieve this objective. He said this position is not new. Qatar has focused on establishing relations among the Arab states based on mutual respect and sincere cooperation in order to benefit Arab countries and peoples and confront future challenges.

In a statement to the Qatari newspaper AL-'ARAB published today, Dr. Abu-Nuwar commended statements by Qatari Foreign Minister Shaykh Hamad Bin-Jasim Al Thani. The Qatari minister has stressed the need to restore Arab solidarity based on reconciliation and openness.

Dr. Abu-Nuwar said these statements are a true expression of the Arab nation's unity and show the nation will benefit from solidarity, and not from fragmentation. He hoped Arab brothers will respond to this Arab call and will meet, speak frankly, and reconcile because the nation will benefit only through unity.

Dr. Abu-Nuwar reiterated that Jordan will not sign a separate peace agreement with Israel. He said Israeli media reports on this issue were fabrications designed to create confusion. He said Jordan believes in a comprehensive and just solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict on all fronts, in accordance with the fundamentals of international legitimacy, in addition to Security Council Resolutions 242, 338, and 425, and the return of land for peace.

He said Jordan and Israel had signed an agenda that contains important issues proposed for the bilateral negotiations. These issues include regaining occupied Jordanian territory, the right to water, environment, refugees, and security.

Dr. Abu-Nuwar stressed the importance of Arab coordination, especially in this current crucial phase for the Arab and Islamic nation. He emphasized the need to revive Arab solidarity and build Arab steadfastness to confront the challenges facing the nation.

U.S. Efforts To End Boycott Against Israel Criticized

JN2011101793 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 20 Nov 93 pp 1, 25

[Editorial: "Extending Siege on Iraq, and Demand To Lift it on Israel"]

[Text] A number of U.S. House of Representatives members presented a draft law to the House calling for economic sanctions against any country that continues to implement the economic boycott of Israel.

In a statement on that draft law, one of those members called for an immediate halt to this boycott, saying that it is unacceptable to continue this boycott more than two months after the Palestinian-Israeli agreement was signed.

At the same time, the Security Council decided to continue the economic siege and sanctions placed on the Iraqi people. This means the continued slaughter of the Iraqi people in a racial, hateful, ugly, and low manner. The United States, which throws all its weight behind the call to cancel the Arab boycott of Israel, is the same United States that throws its weight behind the continued annihilation of Iraqi children through famine, behind the continued annihilation of the Iraqi sick through a lack of medicines. It supports the continued slaughter of Iraqis in the name of the same international legitimacy that Israel disdains, and under alleged abidance by UN resolutions, which Israel does not respect.

Although two months may have passed since the signing of the Palestinian-Israeli agreement, this does not mean that the Palestinian rights in particular, and the Arab rights in general, have been restored. Although eight weeks may have passed since this agreement was signed, this agreement has not changed anything about the fact that the Israeli occupation of Jerusalem, the West Bank, the Gaza Strip, the Syrian Golan Heights, Southern Lebanon, and Jordanian and Egyptian territories is continuing with support of the United States—the No.1 enemy of Arabism, Islam, and Muslims—and the backing of the Western countries that hate us.

The U.S. House of Representatives will approve the draft law, and Washington, Paris, London, Moscow, Beijing, and other powers—those who are big, or those whose will is usurped—will impose on us a false peace that does not return our full rights. But they will not succeed in making the Arabs and Muslims accept an Israeli-Zionist existence that usurps our land, will, resources, and future. What the Americans believe is a major achievement for the Palestinians and the Arabs, which deserves the lifting of the boycott on Israel, is something ridiculous. So far, nothing has been realized. Israel still disdains international legitimacy. To Israel, all the principles and resolutions of international legitimacy are worthless.

As for the United Nations, we have nothing to say to it after its decision to continue besieging and slaughtering the Iraqi people and after all its members approved a great crime because the will of these members is usurped, because they are defeated in their decisions, morals, and national affiliations, whether they are Arabs or Muslims. We do not refer to their human affiliation because it is inhuman to approve the slaughtering of children and elderly just to appease Washington and the West who hate us.

Israel Reportedly Refuses Entry to 'Arab American'

JN2111204393 Amman Jordan Television Network in English 2000 GMT 21 Nov 93

[From the "News At Ten"]

[Text] Israeli occupation troops turned away Arab American leader Abdeen Jabara as he tried to cross the King Husayn Bridge from Jordan. Jabara, who is the vice chairman of the Arab American Anti-Discrimination Committee [ADC], had been a member of an ADC delegation touring the region. The ADC asked the American Embassy in Amman to protest the incident, and demanded a full explanation from the Israeli authorities. They said this was a clear violation of the American-Israeli Treaty on Friendship, Commerce, and Navigation, which forbids ill-treatment of American visitors. Jabara, who is a native of Michigan, will hold a press conference tomorrow.

In a statement to the News at Ten, he protested the Israeli move, and said it was in retaliation for his position in support of Palestinian rights:

[Begin recording] I was going there to visit friends and to also to see what the situation was like after the signing of the historic Israeli-PLO accord. I attended that ceremony in the White House Lawn at the invitation of the White House, and I was astonished today to find out when I gave my passport to the customs official on the Israeli side that they took it and set it to the side and said sit down, and I sat down and I waited for some time, and after a while I got up and I asked them where is my passport, and they said we're sending you back. And, I don't think that people, who supported Palestinian rights, should be punished, and treated arbitrarily, and harassed in this way. I would think that there'll be some kind of changes, because if there is not, that is a very, very strong indication that the Israelis may have changed their coat, but not their spots, and that's really what I think is the issue here. [end recording]

Al-Hirawi Gives Independence Day Speech

NC2111194693 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1733 GMT 21 Nov 93

[Address by President Ilyas al-Hirawi marking Lebanon's 50th independence anniversary; place and date not given—recorded]

[Text] O Lebanese, in a Chamber of Deputies that was under siege following the detention campaign starting on 11 November [1943], Speaker Sabri Hamadah and Deputies Sa'ib Salam, Henri Fir'awn, Muhammad al-Tabw, Marun Kan'an, Rashid Baydun, and Sa'd al-Mullah held a meeting. Fir'awn and al-Mullah made a sketch of the flag that was to become our national banner: Red, white, and red, with a cedar tree in the middle. The other deputies approved the sketch, pledging to make it the flag of an independent country.

It is with reverence that we recall those founding fathers and reflect upon the legacy of freedom and dignity they handed down to us. Today we recall those who sacrificed for this homeland, those who laid the foundation of coexistence in this country, and those martyrs who fell in the fight for democracy and independence. Their memory reinforces our faith that our country will live forever.

O military men, the nation's confidence in you is your strongest asset. Your unity mirror's the nation's. You are the state's arm in its bid to restore national sovereignty in the south and western al-Biqa' and to impose law and order throughout the country.

You have acquitted yourself admirably in conducting every task assigned to you. In doing so, you restored the nation's confidence in the state and its drive for salvation and revival. Your institution is responsible, along with the other security forces, for protecting the achievements of the state in time of peace. Your dedication is crucial to the achievement of our goals and objectives. We have passed a draft law ensuring that our youths will learn from you and participate in defending the country's honor. Keep up the good work.

O Lebanese, independence is not merely a legacy that fills us with pride, but an achievement requiring nurturing. Our path over the past 50 years has been graced with victories, but also littered with mishaps.

We built our country amid international and regional turbulence that saw countries disappear, alliances break, and balances of power upset. Our country survived the storm. Breaking free from a vicious and imposed ordeal was no mean achievement. It can be compared our first liberation on 22 November 1943. Back then, we snatched our independence from foreign hands. Fifty years later we have yet to deliver our people from fear and uncertainty, sectarianism and nepotism, corruption and decay.

It is unacceptable that the same popular demands and complaints recur over half a century. Following independence, Lebanon tried to build itself, but was buffeted by the winds of the Arab-Israeli conflict. Following the end of the civil war, our country is again getting on its feet. We should not let the push-and-shove of the bid for a regional settlement derail us.

O Lebanese, what we have accomplished will not last if we do not complete building the state. One of the characteristics of Lebanese policy is that it knows how to stick to the land, and we, too, have to prove how we can achieve brilliance in, with, and for the state. Some of us have been worn out by the crisis of confidence. Some of us felt insecure about ourselves, some others believed they could replace the homeland, and yet others saw the strength of the state as weakening them and the state's weakness as strengthening them. The people in general are non-sectarian, but political activity is marred by sectarian considerations. The state is determined to see everybody cross over to the national cause, but for this transition to be positive it can neither be imposed by force nor rejected by force.

This predicament was forced upon us by the battles of others. Peace requires us to wage our own battle: the battle of reconstruction and existence. For the past four years, we have sought to strengthen the bridge that links the homeland with life. Now, we are beginning to bring life to the homeland and for the homeland. We know what we have to do. What we have to do is not much different from what we have already done. It is the completion of the implementation of the National Accord Document. What is important is to deepen public participation in building the state and society. Accord does not mean a truce among factions, but the willingness to coexist in a single homeland and for a single homeland.

This year, we faced delicate challenges, but the decisions we made reflected the clarity of our national unity. Should we not praise the state's decision to refuse to accommodate the Palestinian deportees [in southern Lebanon], the state's decision to confront the Israeli aggression in July, and the state's decision to enter the battle for peace to liberate our land from the Israeli occupation? Lebanon has proved that it is no longer an arena for the conflicts of others. It will not be a transit point for the peace of others at its own expense and at the expense of Arab dignity.

We have responded to the peace efforts, because peace is in our heritage and a prerequisite for completing the rebuilding of the state. The state will not be safe if precious parts of the south and Western al-Biqa' remain under Israeli occupation, and there can be no peace in the entire region if there is no peace in Lebanon. We will not be a stumbling block in the face of peace, but we will not give up our right to our land and sovereignty. Pursuing peace is part of peace. The implementation of the international resolutions—foremost being Resolution 425—is a guarantee for a just and comprehensive

peace. Lebanon is part of this region, and it must be influential in creating its future. Shying away from making bold decisions and reluctance in pursuing the country's supreme interests have cost us much. But we have started to live up to the facts with full courage. Lebanon is the ultimate homeland of all its people. A pioneer of pan-Arabism, Lebanon remains the master of its own decisions.

O Lebanese, Great work is not [word indistinct] when the needs are greater, and greater work to meet all the needs requires abilities that go beyond what we have remaining after the wars and their consequences.

The citizens now realize that the electricity supply has improved in most areas. Work is under way to reconstruct public departments' buildings and the Lebanese University, to repair telephone networks, and to rebuild Beirut's southern suburb. Work has begun, and the results are manifest in the fall in inflation in the past 10 months. You can notice the bustling construction activity everywhere. There has been a saving of $500 million in the balance of payments and an increase in bank deposits of approximately $1.5 billion. In addition, the deficit in the balance of trade has been addressed and the growth rate has increased by 2 percent. We have made these and other achievements despite certain setbacks such as the Israeli aggression last July, the impact of the Israeli-Palestinian agreement, and the delay in Arab and international aid for the reconstruction process. We are working with our own resources.

We know that what is required is more than bridging gaps, compensating for shortages, or addressing deficits. We are faced with a test that will reveal our ability to resolve our problems. We must rebuild the country so that its role can be strengthened at a time of increasing regional competition. We must work out a socioeconomic concept to consolidate our desire for development and promote Lebanon's (?status) in the region. We must concentrate our efforts to complete the process of returning the refugees to their homes.

We exhort the rich to contribute to promoting our national achievements by rebuilding part of a quarter, a village, or area. This is the spirit of generosity that is part of our national heritage. The homeland is for all and it can rise when we all cooperate. There should be integration in media, education, and socioeconomic development, increasing production opportunities, and provision of medical care and social services so that the gaps between generations can be bridged. We should act to promote virtues and uproot tendencies toward violence, extremism, and laxity.

The gaps among various classes sap national unity. Coexistence will not succeed unless it is based on a sound and balanced social foundations for all citizens and areas. Coexistence is not a slogan, but a way of life. We are working so that 1994 will mark the start of actual reconstruction for the first time since 1975. We must work to ensure the return to Lebanon of skilled people, promote technical and administrative skills, encourage investment, emphasize a free economy, and formulate regulations to enhance our economic role. We will also work to strengthen the bonds with the Lebanese expatriates who are a basic part of Lebanese potential. They can contribute to Lebanon's reconstruction if we foster their faith in Lebanon. We are in the midst of a fateful stage of transformation. If we slacken, we will not progress.

O Lebanese, the sacrifices and hardships our people have encountered are not in vain. Lebanon is now at the beginning of a new and successful road, thanks to the assistance of our brothers and friends, foremost of whom is fraternal Syria led by my brother President Hafiz al-Asad. President al-Asad supported us in laying the foundations of the salvation march and is supporting us in the march to liberation and peace.

Victory by one over another is not heroism. Heroism lies in our unity to complete Lebanon's victory. Long life to you and long live Lebanon.

Lahd, Lubrani Address Independence Day Ceremony

NC2111161793 Kafr Killa Voice of the South in Arabic 1430 GMT 21 Nov 93

[Text] The Voice of the South radio held a ceremony under the patronage of South Lebanese Army [SLA] Commander Antoine Lahd on Independence Day. The ceremony was attended by General Yitzhaq Mordekhay, commander of the Northern District; Uri Lubrani, coordinator of Lebanese affairs in the Israeli Government; General Gabi Ashkenazi, commander of the Israeli Liaison Unit in Lebanon; Colonel Shlomo Hassoun, director of civilian affairs; several Israeli officers; and a number of local Lebanese figures.

After the national anthem was played, General Lahd delivered a speech in which he said: Today Lebanon is celebrating the anniversary of its independence. For 20 years Lebanon has been living under an occupation and hegemony that have divested independence of every meaning. Independence has become a cover to serve the interests of others. Nothing remains of it except its anniversary. Lebanon's internal and external affairs are being run from outside its borders. The dignity of its sons is being humiliated for the sake of foreigners and their local cronies.

However, these cronies have forgotten that the homeland consists not only of some territory but also of a people and their will to live. No occupier can possess a homeland if its people refuse to be humiliated. The nouveaux riches have sold Lebanon for 30 pieces of silver but the majority of the people still aspire to regain independence. Therefore, it is better to celebrate this independence anniversary as an affirmation of our continuing hope that the homeland will recover its sovereignty and entire territory. This is our dream. We also

aspire to peace, for the sake of which we have born accusations. We enjoy balanced, good neighborly relations with Israel.

Lubrani said: As you know, we are on the path of peace. We are making slow progress, but we are marching forward. Ultimately, we will achieve full peace. As you also know, there are difficulties on the Syrian and Lebanon tracks, but we will overcome them for the benefit of the region's people and its security and prosperity. We will eventually achieve peace.

Lubrani added: Lebanese Defense Minister Muhsin Dallul has stated that 40,000 Syrian soldiers are present in Lebanon at the invitation of Lebanon. Dallul has forgotten that the Syrians entered in 1975 without an invitation. We want peace not only to establish security on the two sides of the border, but also to include the inhabitants of this area [security zone in Southern Lebanon], as well as all the Lebanese living outside it. The inhabitants of this area must not be harmed by Dallul's offer that if peace is established, the Lebanese Army will take control and there will no longer be a Hizballah militia or other organizations.

However, Lubrani asked: Which comes first, the withdrawal or the disbanding of the militias? Israel will not withdraw before the militias are disbanded, and only the Lebanese Army must have control afterward.

General Yitzhaq Mordekhay congratulated the SLA personnel stationed on the border security zone, who are protecting the area from saboteurs' attacks. He also wished the inhabitants of the area a happy year in which they will enjoy stability and independence. He added: Israel will continue the march with General Antoine Lahd to establish peace in the region.

Defense Minister Interviewed on Peace Talks

NC2111074293 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 0610 GMT 21 Nov 93

[Telephone interview with Defense Minister Muhsin Dallul in the al-Biqa' Valley by Shihatah Abu-al-Majd in Cairo, from the "Dialogue From Afar" program; date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Abu-al-Majd] Mr. Minister, we welcome you to Voice of the Arabs.

[Dallul] Thank you.

[Abu-al-Majd] Mr. Minister, perhaps successive events in southern Lebanon and the continuous escalation by Israel over the last few days raises important questions. What are the latest developments in the situation in southern Lebanon, and what does Israel want from this escalation?

[Dallul] We believe that Israel does not want peace in the region. It is trying to split the Arab ranks and destroy inter-Arab relations. If it were serious about wanting peace, Israel would not resort to stalling, escalation on the Lebanese front, and using violence so that negotiations take place accompanied by the background noise of missiles, artillery shells, and airplanes that never leave Lebanon's skies and that flew all the way to Beirut two days ago. Israel does not really want peace. It wants to maneuver, split the Arab ranks, and isolate each Arab party. This policy has become clear and open. If Israel truly believes in peace, why is it stalling? It could openly declare that it will withdraw from southern Lebanon and the western al-Biqa' and from the Golan Heights. It would then become clear to everyone that Israel is expressing its convictions about real and just peace—land for peace. What Israel is doing now indicates that it wants to maintain its grip on the land, prevent peace, control the region, and impose its hegemony on it. Otherwise, how can you explain Rabin's trip to Washington, particularly at this point in time? He has gone there to pressure the administration to get advanced weapons and airplanes so that he can maintain Israel's military superiority. Peace means that we have to forget war and prepare ourselves, our emotions, and our minds for peace.

[Abu-al-Majd] Mr. Minister, there is one very important point. Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' said that U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher told him that he has new proposals to present during his visit to the Middle East to bolster the peace process. This means that the Syrian-Israeli track will see some movement. We did not hear anything about the Lebanese track. Is there anything new on this track?

[Dallul] We have not heard anything, nor were we informed of anything. We cannot confirm or deny what the U.S. secretary is carrying. We are awaiting his visit to see what he has to offer. We are confident that the United States can play a great role in establishing peace. It has to put pressure on Israel for the latter to clearly declare its convictions about peace. Israel needs to confirm this by declaring its willingness to abandon the territories it occupies in Lebanon and Syria.

[Abu-al-Majd] Has the progress on the Palestinian-Israeli negotiating track affected the Syrian and Lebanese tracks?

[Dallul] We will let the facts speak for themselves: What did Israel say after it made progress in its negotiations with the Palestinians? It called for a slow pace on the other tracks so that it could absorb its agreement with the Palestinians. (?This means) procrastination and delay. Had the Arabs involved in the negotiations remained a unit, Israel would not have had recourse to this procrastination, stalling, and maneuvering. I believe—and I say this frankly—that unless progress is made on the Lebanese and Syrian tracks, the progress on the Palestinian-Israeli track will remain vulnerable and—I believe—will risk failure. Peace is indivisible. Peace is a great moral value that we should not divide; otherwise, we will have to prepare for more wars, and the just, courageous peace we are hoping for will not be achieved.

[Abu-al-Majd] Mr. Minister, the Middle East peace we are talking about poses an extremely important question at this stage. French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe recently visited Lebanon and Syria. According to some reports, the Israeli foreign minister asked Juppe to mediate with Syria. Do you have any information about this, and is there French mediation between Lebanon and Israel as well?

[Dallul] According to our information, the French minister did not offer or discuss any mediation. Those reports are inaccurate and not based on the new facts. The minister expressed his country's support for the Lebanese and Syrian positions, stressing the need for Israel to withdraw, stop its procrastination, and explicitly announce its readiness to end its occupation of the Lebanese and Syrian territories. He praised the solidarity between Lebanon and Syria and expressed his belief that the Syrian and Lebanese negotiating tracks cannot be separated because they constitute an indivisible whole.

[Abu-al-Majd] At the end of this dialogue, we thank Lebanese Defense Minister Muhsin Dallul, who is now with us on the line between Cairo and the Lebanese al-Biqa' plain.

[Dallul] Thank you.

French Foreign Minister Departs for Spain After Talks

NC1911181193 Shanayh Voice of the Mountain in Arabic 1230 GMT 19 Nov 93

[Text] French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe left Beirut this morning after talks with the three top leaders and Patriarch Sfayr on regional developments and bilateral relations.

Before leaving Beirut for Spain, he stated that peace in Lebanon relies on a serious implementation of Resolution 425. He said he listened with interest to all the Lebanese officials he met.

Juppe added: I can say that there is an official Lebanese commitment to Resolution 425 that calls for a complete [Israeli] withdrawal. Therefore, Lebanon is ready to discuss a mechanism for its implementation which it views as a sensible and constructive stand. Adherence to this stand will achieve progress in the peace process.

He announced France's rejection of a [Palestinian] settlement in Lebanon and asserted his country's continued support for a sovereign, independent Lebanon.

Hizballah Denies Holding Danes

NC1911181993 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 19 Nov 93

[Text] In a statement today, Hizballah denied reports that it had held three Danes on Wednesday [17 November]. The party announced that they only intercepted the Danes after they were seen taking pictures in the vicinity of the party's military positions in Ba'labakk.

Al-Asad Holds Talks With Jordan's King Husayn

JN2111163793 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 21 Nov 93

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn and His Excellency Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad have held a meeting. They exchanged views on various regional and international issues, and recent developments, particularly with regard to the peace process. The two leaders affirmed the need for coordination between the two leaderships and unifying positions and views vis-a-vis the peace process. The two sides agreed on the need to adopt a unified Arab position in support of the peace process and to discuss ways to give momentum to the peace process in order to a reach a comprehensive and just peace that will be accepted and safeguarded by generations—peace based on restoring all Arab rights, particularly the Palestinian people's right to exercise self-determination on their national soil.

The two sides also discussed fraternal bilateral relations and ways to develop and reinforce them in order to reach the highest level of cooperation and coordination.

The meeting was attended on the Jordanian side by Prime Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali, Royal Court Chief al-Sharif Zayd Bin- Shakir, and his majesty's political adviser Marwan al-Qasim. For Syria, it was attended by Vice Presidents 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam and Zuhayr Mashariqah, Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi, and Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar'.

The two leaders then held a closed meeting.

King Leaves Damascus

JN2111172493 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1646 GMT 21 Nov 93

[Text] Damascus, 21 Nov (SANA)—His Majesty King Husayn Bin- Talal of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan left Damascus at 1800 today, concluding a visit to Damascus. President Hafiz al-Asad led those who saw him off at the airport.

King Husayn was also seen off by Vice Presidents 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam and Dr. Muhammad Zuhayr Mashariqah, Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi, the deputy prime ministers, ministers, and the Jordanian Embassy staff in Damascus.

Government Denies Golan Border Crossing Open for Druze

NC2011122793 Paris AFP in English 1127 GMT 20 Nov 93

[Text] Damascus, Nov 20 (AFP)—Syria on Saturday [20 November] denied that the al-Qunaytirah border crossing on the Golan Heights, two-thirds occupied by Israel, had been open for three months on both sides of the disengagement line to Druze shaykhs.

"It's completely wrong and the crossing remains difficult for everyone," Information Ministry official Ahmad Hariri told AFP, refuting an Israeli television report this week.

"There's no discussion between the two countries on this matter. The Israelis still allow people to cross, but with difficulty," he said.

Israeli television on Tuesday reported that the crossing was open to the Druze clerics. The Syrian town of al-Qunaytirah lies in the part of the Golan Heights occupied by Israel in 1967 and annexed in 1981.

It said dozens of Syrian Druze shaykhs had recently visited their families on the Golan and that in return an increasing number of Druze spiritual leaders living on the plateau were visiting Syria.

Israeli television had described it as a goodwill gesture from both countries towards the Druze community, 15,000 Syrian members of whom live in the occupied Golan.

A sizable Druze community also lives in Israel.

Syrian-Israeli talks which began in 1991 have been deadlocked over Syria's demand for a total Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights, seized in 1967 and annexed in 1981, and Israel's insistence that Syria must first pledge its commitment to full peace.

Israeli state radio on Tuesday quoted Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres as saying he had asked his French counterpart Alain Juppe to organize a meeting between Syrian and Israeli leaders.

Peres said Israel had no intention of excluding Syria from peace negotiations following the September 13 autonomy agreement with the Palestinians.

But he stressed there would be no commitment from Israel to withdraw fully from the Golan Heights in order to resume negotiations.

In a related development, the press here said Saturday that Syria was not willing to pursue the Middle East peace talks in Washington if Israel did not provide written guarantees on a total pullout from the occupied territories.

The official daily TISHRIN said further negotiations "must be preceded by a clear and solemn Israeli commitment to abide by the principles and bases of peace."

It called for "the complete (Israeli) withdrawal from occupied Arab territories, since the pursuit of negotiations without a clear Israeli pledge will not yield any positive result."

The comments came two weeks ahead of a planned visit to the Middle East by U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher.

Another official daily, AL-THAWRAH, said Christopher would find "a more arrogant, more obstinate Israeli negotiator, less inclined than in the past to respond to calls for peace."

The 11th session of bilateral Arab-Israeli talks ended in mid- September in Washington with no progress on the Israeli-Syrian track.

On Friday, Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa said he was optimistic the stalled peace talks between Israel and Syria would resume soon. His country has been playing a key role as a mediator between the different parties to the Arab-Israeli peace talks.

Papers Comment on Israeli Stance Toward Peace Process

Israel To Blame for Lack of Results

JN1711081293 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0545 GMT 17 Nov 93

[From the press review]

[Text] TISHRIN says: Israel is mistaken if it continues to believe that it can succeed in its attempts to weasel out of its responsibility toward the peace process and in its policy to disregard Syria's role and call for holding secret talks and concluding separate deals as a substitute for just and comprehensive peace, the Washington talks, and the Madrid formula.

The paper highlights remarks made by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin in a television interview in Washington. Rabin said: It has never happened that two years of public talks led to an agreement. The paper says: It is true that two years of negotiations in Washington have not achieved any results. Israel is to blame, however, since it is the party that created obstacles, avoided the obligations of peace, and refused to withdraw from the occupied territories. This caused the Washington talks to remain at square one and to falter.

TISHRIN further holds that Israel's continued circumvention of the peace process confined the Washington talks to minor issues without addressing substantial questions. To deny Israel a chance to undermine the Washington talks, Syria submitted a document of principles, in the form of a working paper, during the sixth round. In this document, Syria outlined the true, sound path to a just peace.

TISHRIN underlines Israel's evasion of a constructive, positive discussion of the items of this document, especially when discussing the fifth item on withdrawal from the occupied territories. It was evident that Israel wants to drag the Arabs into recognizing its existence beforehand, keep the occupied Arab territories, and guarantee a settlement and control of the land together. All this does not achieve peace. Israel does not want to contribute to peacemaking; rather it seeks Arab surrender.

TISHRIN concludes: The Government of Israel knows well that peace and occupation are contradictory and that there can be no peace with the continuation of occupation or by overlooking the role of Syria. The Washington talks did not produce any results for one reason, which Israel avoids discussing or mentioning. The reason is that Israel does not want to achieve a just and comprehensive peace. Israel has to date not responded to the foundations of this peace. Had it done so, it would have ended its occupation of the Arab territories quickly.

Expectations for Christopher's Tour

JN2011084993 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0545 GMT 20 Nov 93

[Press review]

[Text] TISHRIN discusses Israel's reaction to news from Washington on a U.S. plan, which U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher will bring to the Middle East next month. TISHRIN asserts that statements by Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres in which he denied the existence of such a plan and rejected its content, even before he knew its details, reflects an absolute rejection of peace and a determination to bury it before it is born.

TISHRIN says: Although it is still premature to talk about U.S. ideas to move the Syrian and Lebanese tracks, stressing the U.S. commitments to achieve a just and comprehensive peace—as stated in U.S. President Bill Clinton's letters to President Hafiz al-Asad—is very important indeed. The attempts made by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin during his recent visit to the United States to freeze U.S. efforts in this regard, under feeble excuses and justifications, cannot deceive any one.

TISHRIN adds: In light of the ideas and proposals that the U.S. secretary is said to be carrying, which cannot be judged in advance, Syria stresses that it is not prepared to continue in the negotiations soley for the sake of negotiations. Syria believes that any resumption of the peace talks must be preceded by a clear and public Israeli commitment to the peace process and its principles, especially full withdrawal from the Arab territories. The continuation of these talks without such a clear Israeli commitment will not yield any positive results and will not push the peace process toward its desired objective. Instead, it will provide Israel with the opportunity to maneuver and circumvent the principles on which the process is based.

TISHRIN concludes by saying: The absence of such an Israeli commitment will enable the Israeli Government to strike at any genuine effort seeking to establish a just and comprehensive peace in the region.

In an article, AL-THAWRAH discusses the Israeli position on the peace process. It notes Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's defiance of the world community and the U.S. Administration, which has flung the doors of its arms depot wide open for him.

AL-THAWRAH says: It is a paradox that cannot be explained by any political logic. If Israel is genuinely interested in peace and is advancing toward a comprehensive peace process, then why is it driving to arm itself with large quantities of weapons that it cannot absorb with its own resources and technical capabilities? What are these weapons for and who are they to be used against?

AL-THAWRAH adds: When Israel becomes the superman of the region, will it have any interest in peace? Will it go back to the Madrid formula or any other formula?

AL-THAWRAH explains: Based on our understanding of the Israeli mindset, we can predict that the U.S. secretary of state, on his upcoming tour of the region, will face a more intransigent and arrogant Israeli negotiator, who will show even less enthusiasm toward the peace process. That negotiator will raise new issues to circumvent peace with new formulas and principles, with which he will try to preoccupy the United States and other parties for some time, enough, in his view, to change equations and conditions.

AL-THAWRAH concludes by saying: We hope the peace guarantees that the United States offered to Israel—in terms of weapons and funds—to encourage it to proceed toward peace, will not become guarantees that will encourage it to pursue anything other than peace.

Israeli Trying To 'Frustrate' U.S.

JN2211072893 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0445 GMT 22 Nov 93

[From the press review]

[Text] AL-BA'TH says: Talking about setting a date for the resumption of the peace negotiations—a point emphasized by the U.S. envoy Dennis Ross and Secretary of State Christopher—requires close attention in light of several factors and considerations, the most important of which is the outpour of statements by several Israeli officials. These statements concentrate on Syria's position on the peace process.

AL-BA'TH adds: This Israeli attitude toward the peace process is both ridiculous and strange. Stranger yet is the statement made by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin summing up his recent visit to the United States. Rabin spoke mainly about armament and Israel's qualitative superiority. This is another serious point to consider besides the above points.

AL-BA'TH goes on: Obviously, Rabin's statement was deliberate. It comes before the upcoming U.S. diplomatic move to resume the peace negotiations. What attracts attention is that while there are active efforts to advance the peace process, Israel is paying attention to the question of armament and keeping its qualitative superiority. This is in addition to its eagerness to associate the peace negotiations with a war threat. While in Canada, Rabin said: We will continue the peace process with one hand; the other hand will be on the trigger.

AL-BA'TH concludes: All these Israeli stands do not inspire the minimum level of assurance about Israel's intentions toward the peace process. Besides its attempt to make the world believe that the Gaza-Jericho agreement is the ceiling that achieves stability for the region and that it is the model that Israel accepts for peace, Israel has once again started leveling accusations against Syria. Israel has also stepped up its rhetoric by making threats, in order to frustrate the expected U.S. activity. This raises the following question: To what extent will the mission of Ross and Christopher succeed in light of these considerations?

Egyptian Sources Cited on Syrian Peace Plan

JN2011171193 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD AL-USBU'I in Arabic 11 Nov 93 p 33

[Excerpt] Capitals/AL-ITTIHAD and news agencies—AL-ITTIHAD has learned that Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad has presented to Egypt a new peace plan, as an alternative to its proposals, calling for full Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights within a 16-month period at the most, and for the evacuation of Zionist settlements in the Golan Heights, in exchange for a Syrian pledge to establish diplomatic ties with Tel Aviv on the level of "two representation offices," with the condition that the proposed agreement should not obligate it to participate in any joint projects with Israel or to establish trade relations with it.

In statements the night before last, Nabil Sha'th said that the important progress at the Cairo talks between the Palestinian and Israeli sides would pave the way for an Israeli withdrawal from Jericho and the Gaza Strip as of 13 December so 'Arafat would be able to return to Jericho in January. A plenary session of the Gaza-Jericho committee meetings is scheduled to be resumed in Taba on Monday.

AL-ITTIHAD learned from Egyptian sources that Dr. Usamah al-Baz, first under secretary of the Egyptian Foreign Ministry and director of the Egyptian president's office, has returned from Damascus carrying a Syrian peace plan with Israel as an alternative to the Egyptian plan he had carried with him to Damascus. The sources said that Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad reviewed the Syrian plan's outlines and Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' explained its details during a full five-hour meeting with al-Baz.

The Syrian plan proposes full Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights within a 16-month period at the most, and the full evacuation of Israeli settlements from the Golan Heights, in exchange for a Syrian pledge to establish diplomatic ties with Israel on the level of a representation office, not embassies. The two offices would be headed by two diplomats on the charge d'affaires level. These offices will open in Damascus and Tel Aviv only after the passage of three years after the

signing of a Syrian-Israeli peace agreement. The Syrian plan stipulates that the proposed agreement should not include any provisions binding Syria to participate in any joint projects with Israel or to establish trade relations with it.

The proposals Dr. al-Baz carried with him to Damascus include a proposal to hold three negotiation sessions between Israel and Syria in Cairo, either secret or away from journalists, provided that Syria and Israel should be represented at these negotiations by the heads of their delegations to the Washington talks, and that two senior aides will assist each head of delegation. A mini-Egyptian delegation will also participate in the talks to provide assistance to both sides.

However, the Egyptian sources stressed that the Syrian president explained to the Egyptian envoy that even if the possibility of success in these talks was one hundred percent, Syria will not accept them because the only formula acceptable to it is the Washington talks based on the Madrid formula.

Egypt is expected to brief the Israeli side on the Syrian plan within the next few days. The sources said that Cairo will urge Israel to respond positively to the Syrian proposals, provided that Egypt promises to try to persuade Syria to reduce the length of the period proposed for exchanging diplomatic representation and to improve relations between Israel and Lebanon. [passage omitted]

Official Explains Deportation of Egyptians

PM1711145593 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 16 Nov 93 pp 1, 4

[Salwa al-Ustuwani report from Damascus and unattributed AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT report from Cairo: "Deported Egyptians Had Crossed Border Into Lebanon Illegally"]

[Text] A Syrian official in Damascus yesterday announced that a number of Egyptians had been detained and then deported to Egypt because they crossed the Syrian border into Lebanon illegally. Egypt's Ambassador in Damascus Dr. Mustafa 'Abd-al-'Aziz Mursi said that the deportees had penetrated the border and crossed into Lebanon.

The Egyptian authorities announced in Cairo yesterday that a third group of 21 Egyptians had arrived in Cairo from Damascus.

In Damascus, Major General Mahfuz al-Kayyali, director of immigration and passorts at the Syrian Interior Ministry, denied in a statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that there was any indiscriminate detention or deportation of Egyptians in Syria. He said: Syria cannot possibly turn back Egyptian brothers. Its borders have always been open to them in particular and to all Arab brothers in general.

He added: What happened was that these brothers crossed the Syrian border into Lebanon illegally and were held by the security authorities at the border. Then they were referred to the justice system in accordance with regulations under the law, and after their release they were sent back to Egypt.

Maj. Gen. al-Kayyali stressed that, from the beginning, evertything was done with the knowledge of the Egyptian Embassy in Damascus and that they had been detained for a number of days in accordance with court sentences passed against them for illegally crossing the Syrian border.

He added: Such laws are applied throughout the world, and this is an internationally accepted procedure.

He further said: Like all Arab brothers, the Egyptians enter Syria without a visa, just with their Arab passports, and they can reside in Syria indefinitely.

He stressed that Syria was eager to treat all Arab brothers well and that Syria is a special country where they can go without obtaining a prior visa and where they are welcome and can work freely.

Maj. Gen. al-Kayyali said 55 people had been sent back to Egypt and that the Egyptian Embassy had supervised the measures taken against them from the moment they were held until their departure, and that it knows that they were not arrested on arrival at Damascus International Airport.

The Egyptian ambassador in Damascus said that the Egyptians were not arrested at Damascus Airport, particularly as no entry visas are required for Egyptians in accordance with the principle of reciprocal treatment.

In a statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT he said that the only Egyptians deported by Syria are those who try to penetrate the common border with Lebanon without obtaining a prior Lebanese entry visa. What happens is that the Lebanese authorities return them to Syria, which in turn is compelled to deport them.

He added that the Syrian authorities regularly treat Egyptian nationals especially well because of the close friendly relations between the two countries.

A third group of 21 Egyptians returned to Cairo from the Syrian capital yesterday aboard an Egyptian airliner. That was the third group to arrive in Cairo in 48 hours. Two other groups of 14 and 21 persons respectively had arrived over the past two days.

India

Violence Reported in Uttar Pradesh Assembly Elections

BK1811125893 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 18 Nov 93

[Text] Moderate to brisk polling is reported in the 224 Uttar Pradesh assembly constituencies which went to the polls today. The first phase of polling ended by and large peacefully, barring stray incidents of group clashes, booth capturing, and the tearing of some ballot papers. A member of parliament received bullet injuries when someone fired at him near Rora in Gonda District. He was admitted to Gonda hospital and is being shifted to Lucknow. The assailant was shot dead by the security guards of the MP on the spot. Six persons have been arrested in this connection. According to the police, an attempt was made to capture a booth at Pangai polling station in Mujehna assembly constituency in Gonda District. Reports of booth capturing have also come in from seven assembly constituencies in Ballia District. Two persons were reportedly injured in cross-firing in Captanganj assembly constituency in Basti District. Attempts were also made to tear off ballot papers at Mahua-Kheraganj polling station at Kashipur in Nainital District. The second-stage polling to 199 constituencies will be held on Sunday.

The Bharatiya Janata Party has demanded a high-level inquiry into the attack on the party's MP, Mr. Satyadev Singh, during polling in the state today. Talking to newspersons in New Delhi, the party spokesman, Mr. K.L. Sharma, condemned the attack.

In Rajasthan, heavy repolling has been reported at 87 polling centers of 25 assembly constituencies. According to reports reaching Jaipur, over 70 percent voters cast their ballots.

Second Stage of Polling Begins

BK2111052093 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0435 GMT 21 Nov 93

[Text] In Uttar Pradesh, the second and final phase of polling began at 0700 this morning. Our correspondents after visiting several polling stations report that the voters are standing in queues waiting their turn to cast their votes. In some polling booths, people turned out in large numbers from early hours. In the curfew-bound areas of Kanpur, very few people have turned up. Our correspondent reports that curfew has been relaxed in Nalla Road and adjoining areas for 12 hours from 0600 this morning to enable people to exercise their voting right.

Elaborate security arrangements have been made to ensure a free, fair, and peaceful poll. Security has been strengthened in sensitive areas. Instructions have been issued to strictly deal with antisocial elements to prevent disruption in the poll process. Polling for 198 constituencies will end at 1700 this evening. Elections in three constituencies have been countermanded following the death of a candidate. The first phase of polling for 224 assembly seats was held on Thursday. Repolling which has been ordered in 83 polling stations will take place tomorrow. However, the date of repolling in the assembly constituencies of Ballia District will be taken up later.

Polling Ends; More Unrest Reported

BK2111132893 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 21 Nov 93

[Text] In Uttar Pradesh, the second and final phase of polling for 198 assembly seats ended this evening. According to reports reaching Lucknow, between 45 and 50 percent of electorate had exercised their franchise by 1600 this afternoon. Reports say women voters turned out in large numbers in rural areas. Our Kanpur correspondent says polling was initially slow but picked up later.

The state chief electoral officer, Mr. S.K. Mukherjee, told our Lucknow correspondent that reports of booth capturing and exchange of fire between rival groups have been received from four places in Etah. One person was killed in the firing at (Bhagen) in Patiyali assembly constituency. Incidents of booth capturing have also been reported from Nayagaon, (Khutupura), Kurma Daulatpur, and Sasroola polling stations in the district.

Home Minister Says ISI 'Engineering' Subversion

BK2211160093 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 22 Nov 93

[Text] The home minister has said Pakistan's Inter Service Intelligence [ISI] is engineering subversive and terrorist activities in India. Mr. Chavan told reporters after attending the convocation of the Satya Sai Baba University at Puttabarti in Andhra Pradesh that the people of Kashmir are fed up with the militant activities and are now against the ultras. He called upon the political leadership in Jammu and Kashmir to take the initiative in solving the Kashmir issue.

The Jammu and Kashmir governor, General Krishna Rao, has stressed the need to ensure that the pressure on militants is continued and intensified. Addressing officials dealing with antimilitant operations in Doda District and adjoining areas of Jammu, he said greater vigilance should be kept on the border areas. Earlier, the governor arrived at Jammu from Srinagar.

Security Measures Tightened at Hazratbal Shrine

BK1911032693 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 19 Nov 93

[Text] In Srinagar, the security setup in the Hazratbal Shrine has been strengthened to prevent carrying of arms and explosives inside. Our Srinagar correspondent, Ajit Singh, reports that two companies of Jammu and Kashmir police have been deployed on guard duties

inside the shrine. Two companies of BSF [Border Security Force] will be on duty on the outer periphery near the entry gate. Metal door frames are also being installed. An SP [Superintendent of Police] Police will be in charge of the revamped security system.

As reported earlier, the Hazratbal Shrine, which was freed from the militants on Tuesday, was reopened to the public yesterday. There is no curfew in any part of Srinagar today. The situation in the entire Kashmir valley is peaceful.

Unrest, Deaths Reported in Kashmir Valley

Pakistani National Arrested

BK1911162193 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 19 Nov 93

[Text] In the Kashmir valley, the situation remained peaceful today, and Friday prayers were held in Srinagar and other places. Our Srinagar correspondent reports that life in localities around the Hazratbal Shrine is returning to normal. The majority of the families who had been shifted from Dhobi Mahalla locality have returned. Shops in different localities of the city opened late in the afternoon. As reported, the shrine has been reopened to the public since yesterday.

Meanwhile, security forces achieved a major success in the state by arresting the self-styled commander in chief of a pro-Pak militant outfit, Nasrullah Manzur alias Mohammad Khan Gaznavi, a Pak national. An army spokesman said in Srinagar this evening that the militant was arrested along with his three associates from Khatran village of Pulwama District today.

Eight Killed by Security Forces

BK2011152693 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1430 GMT 20 Nov 93

[Text] In Jammu and Kashmir, 10 persons including eight militants were killed in separate encounters during the last 24 hours. An official spokesman said in Srinagar this evening that three militants were killed in an encounter with the security forces at (Sangrama) in Baramula District today. Five militants were killed in an encounter at (Lolab) in Kupwara District yesterday. The militants killed two persons at Baramula and Kupwara.

Further Deaths Noted

BK2111145493 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1430 GMT 21 Nov 93

[Text] In Jammu and Kashmir, 12 militants, two security men, and two civilians were killed in different encounters during the last 24 hours. Six militants and one security personnel were killed in an encounter in (Arizal) in Badgam District yesterday. In different search operations, six militants were arrested and a large quantity of arms and ammunition, including 10 AK-type rifles, recovered.

Two Foreigners Among Dead

BK2111155693 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 21 Nov 93

[Text] The fortnight-long joint operation by security forces in Ghat Babur and other areas of Doda District in Jammu division has ended. According to an official spokesman, 10 militants, including two foreigners, were killed during the operation, which was the first of its kind in the area to check increasing militant activities.

Meanwhile, five policemen of Chinani police station in Udhampur District have been dismissed from service on charges of negligence of duty. As reported, five militants raided the police station yesterday and took away three rifles, one wireless set, and about 200 rounds of ammunition.

Islamabad Radio Notes Operations

BK2111115793 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1100 GMT 21 Nov 93

[Text] In occupied Kashmir, Indian occupation troops have killed 15 more people during their siege and search operations at various places. According to the details, five freedom fighters were martyred in (Lolat) area of Kupwara District. Four Indian soldiers were also killed in the fighting. Another four freedom fighters were killed during a clash with the Indian Army at (Kaheran) village of Pulwama. Meanwhile, curfew was reimposed in Batmaloo today after hundreds of angry Kashmiri people took to streets to protest the death of a freedom fighter leader in official custody. The demonstrations erupted after police brought back the body of Merajuddin Ghungru, who was arrested by Border Security Force on the 5th of this month. Men and women marched to the house of Merajuddin, raising slogans demanding Kashmir's independence from India.

People's Liberation Army Commander Killed in Manipur

BK2011063393 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 19 Nov 93

[Text] In Manipur, the self-styled commander of the banned People's Liberation Army, James, alias (Moirangthen Monal), was killed in an encounter with the police on the outskirts of the capital Imphal this afternoon. James was involved in hundred criminal cases including the killing of civilians and security personnel and carried a reward of one lakh rupees on his head. According to police, James came in a two-wheeler with another activist and attacked a police party on patrol duty near (Kongba) Bazar. In the exchange of fire James was killed. His accomplice was arrested. However, two other activists escaped.

Editorial Notes U.S. Efforts To Regain India's Confidence

BK1911123093 Delhi THE HINDUSTAN TIMES in English 8 Nov 93 p 13

[Editorial: "Word From Washington"]

[Text] Whatever its merit, the U.S. State Department's damage control after Ms. Robin Raphel's controversial statement on Kashmir restores the status quo ante of American policy on Kashmir and marks an attempt to gain Indian confidence in American bona fides on the question. In effect, Under Secretary for Political Affairs Peter Tarnoff's clarifications to Indian Ambassador S.S. Ray make two points one of which rightly destroys a major argument made by Ms. Raphel, and the other does so by implication. Mr. Tarnoff told Mr. Ray in his letter that the U.S. considers the Simla agreement the best means to resolve the dispute over Kashmir. This clear enunciation restores the known American position for several years, and corrects Ms. Raphel's assessment that the accord has over the years proved ineffective. The second and more controversial stance that Ms. Raphel took by questioning the validity of The Instrument of Accession was, however, not clarified in equally specific terms. Still, Mr. Tarnoff's total omission of any reference to The Instrument of Accession should normally mean that the State Department does not endorse Ms. Raphel's assessment. The formal letter, in which the Clinton Administration has made the clarification, is being presented as the official U.S. policy. The presumption is that it supersedes Ms. Raphel's contention made at a briefing session for South Asian mediapersons based in Washington.

It can thus be argued that the damage caused by Ms. Raphel's remarks has been somewhat repaired. But even after the clarification, it is apparent that the U.S. has moved considerably away from the Bush administration's policy of pinning its hopes on the Simla accord. Theoretically, if Washington has retracted from questioning the Instrument of Accession that Maharaja Hari Singh had signed, it is not for the exclusive comfort of India. Rejection of the accession process would mean that Pakistan-occupied Kashmir would have to be brought under the Indian State of Jammu and Kashmir before attempting a total solution. That would grievously hurt Pakistan's position which clearly is not a U.S. aim. The impression of a continued tilt in favour of Pakistan can be removed only by another clarification of America's apparently contradictory stance. If by promoting the Simla accord, the U.S. is emphasising a bilateral settlement, does not this mark a contradiction in Washington's view demanding that in any solution the views of the people of all parts of the original State must be taken into account? How is this to be achieved without invoking a three-party solution that has been talked about in Washington? Does this square with a bilateral approach? Mr. Tarnoff's letter to Mr. Ray may not have marked a departure from the U.S. position on Kashmir. It, however, means that noises Washington heard from India have had some effect on it and made it make an attempt to soothe New Delhi's hurt feelings. The art of diplomacy after all requires playing with words. Ms. Raphel was inept in handling them; Mr. Tarnoff more skilful.

DPRK Delegation Meets External Affairs Minister

BK2111044493 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1615 GMT 20 Nov 93

[Text] India and DPR Korea have stressed the need to expand their bilateral economic ties. The four-member delegation led by the chairman of the Social Democratic Party of DPR Korea, Mr. (Kim Chong-sik), called on the minister of state for external affairs, Mr. R.L. Bhatia, in New Delhi today. Mr. (Kim) briefed Mr. Bhatia on the current developments in the Korean peninsula. Mr. Bhatia told the delegation that Pakistan was sending trained militants into India. He said New Delhi wanted a dialogue with Islamabad to settle bilateral problems. The Social Democratic Party delegation is visiting India for the first time.

Finance Minister Comments on New Economic Policy

BK2011161493 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 20 Nov 93

[Text] The finance minister said the new economic policy is aimed at a strong Indian industry to make it more competitive in the international market. Inaugurating the 93d annual general meeting of the Bharat Chambers of Commerce in Calcutta today, Dr. Manmohan Singh stressed the need for an aggressive export policy. He said the government will device a credible safety net for the employees who will be affected in the process of the current changes.

Later, addressing the Calcutta Chamber of Commerce, the finance minister stressed the need for abiding by the code of conduct by major money players in the capital market. He said despite the scam, the amount of capital raised in the Indian capital market in 1992-93 was roughly four times the amount raised during the previous year. He said the country has a comfortable foreign exchange position, with its reserves going up eight times from a mere 1 billion dollars when the Narasimha Rao government assumed office. Dr. Manmohan Singh said Indian industrialists need not fear foreign investors, as they will have to function under the framework of the country's laws.

Addressing newspersons at Raj Bhavan in the evening, Dr. Manmohan Singh said the center wants a change in the culture of banking system with a reasonable functional autonomy. Both the depositors and employees interests will be retained in case of merger of a weak bank into a strong one, he added.

Iran

Musavi-Ardebili Leads Tehran Friday Prayers

LD1911114093 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 19 Nov 93

[Excerpt] With the massive participation of God-seeking worshippers, the magnificent rites of Friday prayers were staged today throughout the country. In Tehran's Friday prayers, Ayatollah Musavi-Ardebili referred to the humiliating and undesirable consequences of the compromise of certain countries with America, and considered this regime as the Mother of Corruption and the springboard for all evils. He added: By obeying the supreme leader of Islam, his holiness the prophet, may God's peace be upon him and his scion, and with reliance on God, and finally through the mobilization of all existing and potential resources, we must be resistant in the face of all problems and try to find suitable solutions for them.

The Friday prayers preacher of Tehran placed emphasis on the resolute and illuminating remarks made by the eminent leader [Khamene'i] on the topic of rejecting negotiations with America. He said: From now on, the case for any plans on negotiation, compromise, and relations with America must be considered as closed.

In his second sermon, the provisional Friday prayers leader of Tehran commemorated the martyrdom anniversary of Her Holiness Fatimah-Zahra [the prophet's daughter], may peace be upon her. He said: The root for all the injustice inflicted on the Family of Purity, in particular the revered sister of the eminent prophet of Islam, must be sought amid the political and intellectual processes of the era who owed no allegiance whatsoever to divine strictures. [passage omitted]

Discusses Relations With U.S.

LD1911154293 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1130 GMT 19 Nov 93

[First Friday prayers sermon delivered by Ayatollah Musavi-Ardebili in Tehran on 19 November—recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. [passage omitted] During a previous sermon, in the second sermon, I spoke about the issue of entente cordiale, detente, and cooperation [mofaheme, mosaleheh, hamkari] with America and told you in my statements that there are some issues which, God willing, I will tell you about in the next session. But since then, through the blessing of God, you have witnessed events which were most proper, most apt. No ground was left for the issues I had in mind to tell you later.

First, the leadership, explained the issue categorically, clearly, in a reasoned way, very ably, and at a high level. Afterwards, the cabinet, the Majlis, the Friday prayers imams, establishments, the people, the students, all, pursued the matter and the file on that has been closed. Thanks be to God. There is no longer any ground for my remarks. There is no need for me to say something on that issue.

But there is a small matter that is stuck in my mind which I will tell you about and then I will talk about two issues. That will be my first sermon. And the second sermon will be about her eminence, Fateme Zahra [Muhammad's daughter], God's peace be upon her, on account of the fact that it is the anniversary of her death.

Now for the issue that remains. The issue became clear through events, remarks, writings, statements, and communiques. No one should utter, talk about, or write: detente with America, entente cordiale with America, cooperation with America, reconciliation with America. This utterance is like hemlock! It is not advisable, it is not proper, and it is against everything. Very well! I think it likely—maybe slightly more than likely—that some people understood that they should not say this, should not write this, should not remark this; but I want to go beyond that. They should not even think about it. Some may have this in their heart of hearts.

We have problems in the country, economic problems, political problems, noneconomic problems. We have problems. America is the mother of corruption. It creates those problems, carves them out, and imposes them on us. It carries out economic blockades. Wherever it goes it demonizes us, makes a nuisance of itself. That is what America does. What is wrong with making peace with America and thus stemming its mischief? Make peace so that it leaves us alone? Make peace so that not only it leaves us alone but maybe gives us some assistance, significant or not? And if it does not help us, at least it leaves us alone? What is wrong with that? Why do those gentlemen oppose that? Why do they tell us not to say that, not to write that, not to act in that way? Why do they say it is hemlock, lethal, dangerous? Someone may think that.

I would like to tell you regarding America that this is correct. Let us not even allow such thoughts to enter our minds. Do not say, do not write, do not remark, do not even say it in private, do not even say it in family circles, do not even tell it to our children and wives! We must not even think about it. Even thinking about it is dangerous. The intention is dangerous. [passage omitted]

To say that we have problems in the country—economic problems and noneconomic problems—is correct to a certain extent. It is right and undeniable as well. All can feel that, too. But we are not the only ones to have problems. Which country under the firmament is without problems?

All countries have problems. We, too, have problems, by the way. Some may have many. Does America not have any problems? Does Europe not have problems? Does Britain not have problems? They all have, and so do we. Now, you may say some have more, or some have less than others. I have no argument with that. It is true.

When they say these problems have been created for us by America, that America is the root of these problems, that America is the mother of corruption and the seat of corruption, this cannot be viewed in absolute terms, but it is true in relative terms. America undoubtedly creates problems for us, has imposed economic sanctions against us, has seized our assets, has indulged in mischievous and evil political deeds, has created obstacles for us, has levelled accusations at us, has told lies about us—not once, but two, three, four, or five times. That is true. But to say that all our problems stem from America is not true. That is forgetting ourselves.

Some of our problems—be it more or less, I am not concerned whether it is 50, 40, 60, 70 percent—30 percent of our problems are of our own doing. We are not using our active work force. Is that America's doing? We have waste and overspending. Is that America's doing? We love luxuries. Is that America's fault? We take advantage of the chaotic market situation. Is that America's fault? We are opportunists. Is that America's doing? We lack proper management in the country. Is that America's fault? We have thousands of problems of our own. Why should they be attributed to America? [passage omitted]

I say to those who say let us cooperate with America to solve our problems: If you mean it, first come and solve our own problems. If you can, if you manage it, and if you want to, then you can say we, ourselves, solved our own problems. [passage omitted]

Japan once had problems. What did it do to solve its problems? Today, Japan has a giant economy. With all its population and all its past problems, China's economy is now flourishing. What did they do? They are neither Muslims, nor are they believers, nor do they have the Koran, or religion, or anything else. But they have sense, initiative. [passage omitted]

Concerning America, those who wish for ties with America think that if we make peace with it, it will be friendly toward us. That is wrong. You go and make friends with America and sing its praises, but it will not cooperate with you. It is your enemy. [Crowd chants: "Death to America, death to Israel"] America is your sworn enemy, and this is because you have hurt and discredited it throughout the world. In this very den of espionage [former U.S. Embassy in Tehran] you managed to deliver a blow to America which was unlike anything it had ever experienced before anywhere in the world.

Now that you have successfully marred America's international reputation, you cannot possibly come forward and say: Look! Whatever we once did to you is now over, and we just want to settle our issues with you. Do you think that America is going to respond by saying that they have always been looking forward to such a day? Has America left the Soviet Union alone now after making it suffer so much? America has created today's Russia out of yesterday's Soviet Union, and it is still busy sucking its blood and causing it more and more misery.

Look at the Arabs who raised their hands right from the outset and nodded in consent to everything America ever said. Do you think America is now their friend? Do you think that America is Egypt's friend? Egypt has conceded to being America's servant. It has told the Americans that it is prepared to go to Somalia in order to replace them and subject itself to all the calamities that are taking place in that country. If the Somalis kill American soldiers one after the other, they will kill the Egyptian troops brigade after brigade. Nonetheless, Egypt is still prepared to dispatch troops to that country. What favors has America ever offered to all of its obedient servants? Do you think that America might possibly deal with us differently and say that the Iranians are a different entity altogether? Does America possess any sense of mercy and human emotions? What does America possess after all? We must sit and think about this matter.

So, in the first place, not all our problems have to do with America; only some of them are brought about by that regime. These problems, however, cannot be resolved through cooperation and compromise with America. However, if we become aware, independent, and self-confident, and if we try to solve our problems independently and have confidence in ourselves, all our problems will doubtless be resolved, be they those which have to do with us only, or the ones brought about by America. [Crowd chants in support of Khamene'i and the revolution, and in condemnation of America and Israel] [passage omitted]

After we accepted the resolution [UN Security Council Resolution 598], the first Friday when it was my turn [to preach the Friday prayers sermons] I had an idea and I said it. I said: Gentlemen, do not imagine, do not think that from tomorrow all our problems will be solved. During an imposed and merciless war we fought not against Iraq, but against the whole world. We were weakened, we were impoverished. From tomorrow [referring to his remarks in 1988] we should tighten our belts, we should accept hunger, we should work harder, we should sleep less at night, we should have fewer holidays.

Some people blamed me for what I said. They said: What is it that you are saying? Why are you instilling despair in the people? The people might say that so far Saddam has piled misery upon us, now these people have started to tell us to eat less, to sleep less, to work more. I said this is a lesson which the world has taught us. All those who have been involved in a war have been in a similar predicament. Japan paid war reparations until only a few years ago. After World War II, the Germans kept working hard and poured their money into the pockets of the victors and paid war reparations. This is the case with every country which has been engaged in a war.

Even now it is not too late. Let us turn toward ourselves. Let us solve our problems ourselves, God willing and through God's grace. We possess many capabilities. We have oil, we have mines, we have forests, we have fields, we have agricultural potential. We possess many capabilities. If we make use of these capabilities through hard work, through endeavor, with high motivation; if we rise up and work hard and work well, all these difficulties which I referred to—I do not wish to elaborate on them—all these difficulties will be solved. [passage omitted]

Khamene'i Addresses Basiji Gathering

LD2111132393 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 21 Nov 93

[Excerpts] At a huge gathering of commanders of the Basij [Mobilization] Resistance Force from all over the country this morning, His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, leader of the Islamic revolution and commander in chief of the joint forces, made some remarks in praise of the role of the Basij in the achievement of great and eternal honor for the Muslim nation of Iran. He said communication between the great masses of people and the leadership of the Islamic revolution, as a religious and divine focal point, is the principle cause of the successes and victories achieved thus far.

The ceremonies took place at the Takhti Stadium in Tehran on the second day of the Basij Week [starting Saturday 20 November]. [passage omitted]

The commander in chief of the armed forces referred to various pressures exerted by America and other corrupt and tyrannical powers of the world against many governments. He said: The determination of our Muslim and faithful nation is based on being independent, living a free life, and developing the country. It will not allow any power to turn it into a tool for its own purpose. That is considered as the greatest honor by our nation.

Continuing, the exalted leader of the Islamic revolution said: The Iranian nation and government are strong enough to prevent world arrogance interfering in their own affairs. Today the world governments, nations, and administrative establishments must openly smack America in the mouth and prevent it's shameless interventions in their internal affairs.

The commander in chief of the armed forces described any effort to damage the unity of the Iranian nation and the unanimity between the people and authorities as a move on behalf of enemy interests. He said: A great force such as the Iranian nation, whose heart is full of divine love and belief and ideology, is powerful enough to build up its own country as befits a great nation. [passage omitted]

His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i heralded the thwarting of the enemies of Islam in their efforts to strike blows against the Islamic Republic of Iran's system. At the conclusion of his remarks, he called on the Basij Resistance Force to acquire spiritual and scientific learning, carry out the necessary military maneuvers, and make a strong and broad formation. [passage omitted]

President Addresses Basijis at Khomeyni Shrine

LD2011181493 Tehran IRNA in English 1800 GMT 20 Nov 93

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 20, IRNA—President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani today paid homage to the Basijis (volunteer forces) and gave them credit for the successful resistance against the Iraqi invasion (1980-88).

Hashemi-Rafsanjani who was addressing a large group of Basijis at the shrine of Imam Khomeyni, on the start of the Basij Week, paid tribute to the father of the Islamic revolution, for having founded the dedicated popular forces in post-revolution Iran.

He said the Basij enjoys the full trust of the nation and is the best loved of all forces.

The hojat ol-eslam also referred to the group of female Basijis among the assembly and said that the subscription of the 'Sisters Basij' was indication of the liberating role of women in Islamic Iran.

The Basijis laid a wreath of flowers on Imam Khomeyni's tomb and renewed their covenant with the founder of the Islamic Republic.

Basijis To Begin Judicial Activities

NC2111082393 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0430 GMT 21 Nov 93

[Text] Thirty-three basijis received the necessary licenses to begin activities on a country-wide level as judicial executives. Brigadier of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps Afshar announced yesterday that as part of the first phase of this plan, which will be implemented by the end of this Iranian year, 30,000 basijis will assist these judicial executives in the capacity of advisers.

He stressed the need for the support and cooperation of the relevant officials, especially judiciary officials, with the basijis. According to the commander of the Basij resistance forces, the establishment of Basij cultural and sports centers, which will cost 5 billion rials each, has begun in most of the country's large cities and provincial centers. Four such centers will be inaugurated soon in Hamedan, Tabriz, Rasht, and Kermanshah.

Referring to the other activities of this force, Afshar stated that more than 20,000 basiji students had been appointed at pilgrim camps and tourist and amusement centers and that 5,400 basijis will be sent on pilgrimage to Syria during the summer.

Velayati Warns Against Violations of Muslims' Rights

LD2111230993 Tehran IRNA in English 1859 GMT 21 Nov 93

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 21, IRNA—Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati here today expressed concern over the on-going violation of the Muslims' rights in al-Aqsa Mosque by the Zionist regime.

Velayati in a message delivered to the Secretariat of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) in Jeddah, said the Supreme Court of the occupying regime in Quds [Jerusalem] has violated the Muslims' rights in al-Aqsa Mosque by adopting new decisions.

"While the year 1993, declared by OIC as the year of Quds, is approaching its end, the sufferings of the Muslims in the occupied territories are still going on, and desecration of their first qiblah and their third holy mosque continues," the message said.

It said the blatant violation of the legitimate rights of the Muslims in al-Aqsa cannot be overlooked, and that the Muslim world should not allow the issue of Quds to become a marginal concern, and fall into oblivion in the wake of the political games.

"The OIC emphasis on the issue of Quds as the most important issue of the Muslim world which has its root in the charter and joint decisions of the heads and foreign ministers of the OIC member states, oblige us to use all the possibilities towards the liberation of the holy Quds," said the message.

Referring to the need for adoption of a decisive and realistic stance by the Islamic countries concerning the liberation of Quds from the claws of the Zionist regime, the message said the Islamic Republic of Iran has always been ready to help in this important issue, which would lead to the realization of the Muslims's legitimate rights.

Larijani Discusses Nature of Foreign Policy

NC2011163093 Tehran RESALAT in Persian 4 Nov 93 pp 1, 16

[Editorial by Dr. Mohammad Javad Larijani: "The Islamic Republic and World Policy"]

[Excerpts] 1. Do we have anything to say on the international scene? Regardless of how they are disseminated, the Islamic revolution has two important messages to convey for implementation on the international level, which it is propagating right now: First, it categorically rejects domination and succumbing to domination. Second, it believes the stances of governments should, like individuals, be based on truth (justice).

Some people, at home or abroad, may have some problems with our conduct and in some cases they may be justified, but our actions and policies have always been based on the aforementioned two points and our foreign policy has therefore been enriched and become more principled.

2. [passage omitted]

3. When the Soviet empire was at the peak of its might and power and the two liberal and Marxist empires were striving to impose the "bipolar logic" so that no one could imagine any free or independent movement outside the orbit of these two empires, the Islamic Republic of Iran propounded the theory of "an unconditional rejection of domination" and adhered to it steadfastly. It also organized its own valiant defense outside their domain! [passage omitted]

4. Today, many, at home and abroad, consider our refusal to forge political relations with the United States as simpleminded and untechnical! But no one can deny its importance: In circumstances in which the United States uses every opportunity to display its right to dominate in issues that have no relation with it, be it the issue of the [PRC] vessel, the freedom of factions, interpretation of the Koran, separating religion from politics, and so on, rejecting relations with the United States is certainly tantamount to not accepting these belligerent claims.

Even if this were the only effect, our policy would be considered very serious and meaningful. Such thinking is a major service to international humanity, so we should prepare ourselves for such a mission. How can we do this?

We should stand on our own feet and believe that we can transform Islamic Iran into a flourishing, progressive, and strong country with the strong hands and creative thinking of our Muslim people. Yes. We should view our people as our national wealth and allow individuals with high hopes to perform major tasks.

Two MKO Members Killed, Implicated in Attack on French Embassy

LD2111113193 Tehran IRNA in English 1008 GMT 21 Nov 93

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 21, IRNA—A senior official at Iran's Information [Intelligence and Security] Ministry Sunday [21 November] said the two members of the terrorist Mujahidin [Mojahedin-e] Khalq Organization (MKO) who were involved in November 9 attack on French Embassy in Tehran, have been killed while trying to flee Iran from Ilam border point in west of Iran.

Director general for internal security, Musavi-Nejad, told IRNA that the two were killed while clashing with operation units of the Information Ministry. He said that another MKO member, Ehsan Zahedi, who was arrested following the attack on French interests, has confirmed that the two, Assadollah Bahrami and Parviz Zerafatkhah, were responsible for the attack on French Embassy.

A group of unidentified people attacked the French Embassy and Air France office in Tehran on November 9 a day after the French Foreign Ministry officials formally confirmed that Maryam Rajavi, the third wife of the MKO ringleader, was in Paris.

Musavi-Nejad noted that Zahedi, who was carrying a time bomb in a bag at the time of arrest, confessed that two MKO operational teams had been dispatched from Iraq to carry out sabotage activities against French interests in Tehran.

Further quoting Zahedi, the official said that the terrorist MKO grouplet had masterminded other attacks on French interests in Tehran but failed due to precautionary measures taken by Iranian security forces. Musavi-Nejad further said that another two MKO terrorists, Mohammad Hivari and Attiyeh Hassanzadeh, managed to flee the country after the attack on Air France. Asked if there remained any threats against French interests in Iran, Musavi-Nejad said that his ministry was bound to protect diplomats and diplomatic centres in Iran. However, he stressed, such incidents may occur in any part of the world.

Referring to the repeated attacks on Iranian centres abroad, especially in western countries, he said apparently those countries had never followed up those cases as seriously as Iranian forces did during the recent incident. He said that the objective behind MKO attack on French interests in Tehran was to mar Tehran-Paris ties and provide an opportunity to wage vicious propaganda against Iran throughout the world.

Musavi-Nejad said the MKO was scared of the establishment of contacts between Tehran and Paris and cooperation between information centres of the two countries. Therefore, he added, this could be another motive for the MKO in its attack on French interests in Tehran. He further noted that such reasons as disputes in the MKO leadership and lack of security for MKO members in Iraq were behind Maryam Rajavi's fleeing to Paris.

Information Ministry of Iran had carried out talks with information services of several countries for control of the activities or extradition of MKO members who had been involved in terrorist activities, he said adding, "so far desirable results have been achieved in this respect."

Families of MKO 'Victims' Send Letter to French Envoy

LD2111143993 Tehran IRNA in English 1312 GMT 21 Nov 93

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 21, IRNA—Some 15 families whose beloved ones have fallen victims to the crimes of the terrorist Mujahideen Khalq [Mojahedin-e Khalq] Organization (MKO) today strongly criticized the French Government for allowing the wife of MKO ringleader to stay in Paris. In an open letter to French Ambassador to Iran Hubert Colin de Verdiere, the bereaved relatives of MKO crimes, also vowed they would press the Iranian parliament (Majlis) to reconsider Tehran's ties with Paris.

Last week, Deputy Chief of the Majlis Foreign Policy Committee Mohammad Javad Larijani said the Majlis would reconsider Iran's relations with France following the latter's permission to MKO agent Maryam Rajavi to live in Paris. The letter said that granting of political asylum to Maryam Rajavi by Paris meant its bowing to U.S. pressure, adding "this has badly tarnished the prestige of France whose leaders claim to be advocates of democracy, justice, peace and friendship."

"By admitting an MKO ringleader to France, the Paris government has once again diverted Iranians' attention to France's all-out support for the Iraqi regime during its 8-year old war on Iran and its overt and covert backing of the terrorist MKO grouplet," it said.

The letter, a copy of which was faxed to IRNA from Arak, Central Province where the bereaved families live, questioned the French ambassador whether its government has forgotten the acts of terrorism perpetrated by MKO members in Iran.

The letter also reminded the French ambassador of the aggression launched by MKO members on Iranian border areas with miltiary equipment presented to them by previous French governments and of the massacre of Iranian women, old people and children by the terrorist grouplet.

Despite the Iranian people's willingness to forget the "unfriendly" behavior of previous French governments towards Iran, for example their supply of arms to Iraq, it seems that Paris by permitting MKO members to stay in France would like the Iranians to change their attitude concerning relations with that country.

Elsewhere in the letter, they vowed to put pressure on the majlis to reconsider the level of diplomatic ties between Tehran and Paris if the latter insisted on maintaining its support for the MKO terrorists.

Authorities Close Yoga Center, Arrest Owners

NC2111092693 Paris AFP in English 0840 GMT 21 Nov 93

[Text] Tehran, Nov 21 (AFP)—Iranian authorities have closed a yoga center in northern Tehran and arrested the owners for failing to abide by Islamic laws, ABRAR newspaper reported Sunday [21 November].

The paper did not specify which laws the family-run center had violated but said it had not been registered and "failed to abide by the shari'ah."

Interest in yoga and transcendental meditation has grown among middle and upper-middle class Iranians in recent years and centers for such activities have mushroomed in Tehran and other big cities.

Iranian authorities generally tolerate such centers provided they respect Islamic laws and segregate men from women.

Cabinet Apporves Parts of National Development Plan

LD2011201793 Tehran IRNA in English 2006 GMT 20 Nov 93

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 20, IRNA—The cabinet convened here Saturday [20 November] presided over by President Hojat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

The meeting approved parts of the second 5-year national development plan (to start next March), including proposed plans for facilitate marriages, improve housing and employment for the lower income groups of the society.

It also reviewed cultural issues including better filling the leisure hours of youth and Iran's greater cooperation with independent news networks of the region and world, as well as use of satellite to broadcast to neighbouring countries.

Details of Naval Maneuvers Reported

NC2011190393 Tehran HAMSHAHRI in Persian 13 Nov 93 p 1

[Report by HAMSHAHRI correspondent from Bandar-e 'Abbas]

[Text] The combined amphibious maneuvers of the units of the first naval section of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps, the Iranian Armed Forces, and the ninth fighter base at Bandar-e 'Abbas commenced yesterday in the Persian Gulf and the strategic Strait of Hormuz involving the latest tactics and military and defense weapons.

The forces participating in these maneuvers will be carrying out a display of various phases of reconnaissance operations, clearing mines from the coast, destroying a submarine, landing forces and equipment from a warship, performing a mass offensive by boat, occupying a bridge, and warding off a hypothetical enemy.

During these maneuvers the airborne units of the ninth fighter base at Bandar-e'Abbas will also carry out some coordinated operations, bombing hypothetical enemy positions and providing air cover to the operating units, thus ensuring aerial support.

Pakistan

Bhutto Discusses Nonproliferation, Nuclear Program

BK2011143693 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 20 Nov 93

[Text] The prime minister, Ms. Benazir Bhutto, has declared in unequivocal terms that Pakistan remains committed to nuclear nonproliferation. She was speaking as chief guest at the foundation stone laying ceremony of the Karachi Institute of Radiotherapy and Nuclear Medicine, Kiran, in Karachi this afternoon.

[Begin Bhutto recording] Our peaceful nuclear program has been constantly pressurized and subjected to hostile and vicious propaganda and unjust discrimination. Let me say unequivocally that Pakistan remains committed to nuclear nonproliferation. We have proposed and supported many initiatives to exclude nuclear weapons from the South Asian region. Pakistan will continue with its efforts toward establishing an equitable and nondiscriminatory nonproliferation regime in South Asia. We will welcome and cooperate on any proposal or initiative put forward from any quarter for achieving this cherished goal, and we will continue our endeavor in peaceful uses of nuclear energy. [end recording]

Later, the prime minister laid the foundation stone of Kiran by unveiling a plaque. The acting governor of Sindh, the chief minister, the chairperson of the Pakistan People's Party, some federal and provincial ministers, and the chairman of the Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission were also present on the occasion. Pakistan television's representative says that Kiran would be completed in four year's time at an estimated cost of 195 million rupees. It will provide most modern medical facilities to the people of Karachi and its adjoining areas.

Further on Remarks

BK2011164493 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1600 GMT 20 Nov 93

[Text] The prime minister, Ms. Benazir Bhutto, has declared that Pakistan remains committed to nuclear nonproliferation and will continue its efforts toward establishing an equitable and nondiscriminatory nonproliferation regime in South Asia. She said this while laying the foundation stone of Karachi Institute of Radiotherapy and Nuclear Medicines in Karachi today. Ms. Benazir Bhutto referred to the pressure brought about against Pakistan's peaceful nuclear program and pointed out that the Pressler Amendment has in fact hindered all regional initiatives toward nonproliferation. She said Pakistan will welcome any initiative from any quarter for achieving this cherished goal. However, she made it clear that Pakistan's commitment to nuclear nonproliferation could not be unilateral. There would be no roll back of our peaceful nuclear program, nor shall we accept discriminatory restrictions on research and development.

Earlier, the prime minister attended a ceremony to induct the frigate PNS Tariq into the Pakistan Navy at the naval dockyard. Speaking on the occasion, she said the Pakistan Navy should not only be capable of destroying the enemy, but should be strong enough to meet any challenge. She assured the Pakistan Navy that all its needs would be met.

[In a similiar report, Islamabad PTV Television Network in English at 1400 GMT on 20 November adds: "PNS Tariq, a

frigate, is equipped with anti-air and surface radars, search, attack and bottom classification sonars, subsurface torpedoes, surface-to-air missiles, surface-to-surface missiles and anti-air and antisurface guns."]

The prime minister said Pakistan is keen to maintain good, friendly relations with India, but there could be no big strides in this direction unless the Kashmir dispute was resolved.

Addressing a news conference before her departure for Islamabad this after, Ms. Benazir Bhutto said her government is taking rapid steps to transform Pakistan into a strong and developed country. Utmost attention is being paid to increase energy resources and lower population growth rate. It is also our endeavor to eliminate unemployment. She said we intend to promote public-private partnership, initiate labor-intensive projects, and are planning to set up industries in backward areas.

Replying to a question, the prime minister thanked Mr. Altaf Hussain for MQM [Muhajir Qaumi Movement] support to her party in the presidential election. She said the Sindh chief minister would make efforts to establish working relationship with the MQM representatives in the provincial assembly.

About the question of revoking cases against some MQM leaders, she said if they felt that the cases were concocted, they should face them in the court. She said criminals or their backers both in the rural and urban areas would not be spared. The prime minister also addressed a public meeting at Bhit Island near Karachi and announced the setting up of a fund for the welfare of fishermen.

'Nondiscriminatory U.S. Stand' Needed

BK2111031093 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 21 Nov 93

[Text] The prime minister has said Pakistan cannot roll back its nuclear program unilaterally because it is not possible and also will it help in any way in achieving the objective of nuclear nonproliferation in the region. Addressing a news conference in Karachi yesterday evening, Benazir Bhutto said Pakistan is trying to convince the United States that applying the Pressler Amendment to Pakistan only cannot help achieve the objective of nuclear nonproliferation. She said only a nondiscriminatory U.S. stand toward both India and Pakistan can help realize the objective of nuclear nonproliferation.

The prime minister recalled that Pakistan had offered several proposals to India to check nuclear proliferation in the region, but all such proposals were rejected by New Delhi. She said there are several outstanding issues between India and Pakistan, the foremost among them being the dispute over Jammu and Kashmir. She expressed Pakistan's willingness to enter into a meaningful dialog with India to try to resolve the Jammu and Kashmir issue peacefully. Other issues that need to be resolved include nuclear nonproliferation, arms control, and force reduction at the regional level.

Answering a question about her visit to India to attend the UNICEF meeting, Benazir Bhutto said the government has not made a decision in this regard. The continued struggle for freedom in occupied Kashmir has escalated tension between India and Pakistan; if the government felt that her visit would provide an opportunity for meaningful and constructive dialogue on the Kashmir dispute, then she would consider visiting New Delhi.

About government cooperation with the opposition on several issues, the prime minister said the positive outcome of the recent general elections is that they have created a two-party system in the country. She said cooperation between the government and the opposition is necessary on all national issues, including restoring women's seats in parliament and the ordinance on changing party affiliations by legislators.

On the Army operation in Sindh, Benazir Bhutto said the people are thankful to the Army for restoring peace, but the operation cannot be continued for a long time. We have to take steps for the socioeconomic progress of the province, because only administrative measures cannot achieve the desired results.

Spokesman Says Remarks 'Misconstrued'

BK2111144293 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 21 Nov 93

[Text] An official spokesman said in Islamabad today that the decision to freeze Pakistan's nuclear program at the stage of development in which it was in July 1990 was taken when Ms. Benazir Bhutto was not the prime minister of Pakistan. The spokesman said the prime minister's remarks at a press briefing yesterday have been misconstrued. The prime minister, he added, had spoken of freezing of the nuclear program at the stage of July 1990 and did not say that the decision to do so had been taken in July 1990. The decision to this effect had in fact been taken later. According to the spokesman, critics of the present government were engaging in hypocritical rhetoric and their attitude is harming the country's research and development program in the nuclear field. The fact remains that the federal governments since 1990, by maintaining the course, have demonstrated that the bipartisan consensus exists on important foreign policy issues such as the nuclear program. The spokesman said the government is willing to discuss all necessary facts in the sphere of foreign policy before the public and Parliament. But the opposition should refrain from playing games with a vital national security issue, particularly since its action was no different than the present government.